THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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MODI TO INAUGURATE KASHI TEMPLE CORRIDOR TODAY

The 900-metre-long corridor links the *jyotirlinga* directly to three Ganga ghats in an extensive transformation of Varanasi

PROJECT A BOON FOR SIVA DEVOTEES

The ₹900-crore project fulfils PM Narendra Modi's vision of easing access to the Kashi Vishwanath temple for devotees and providing new facilities. Over 400 buildings were bought and removed around the area to clear space. The inauguration, coming ahead of Uttar Pradesh's state polls, will be a three-day extravaganza. PM Modi will arrive on a boat on the Ganga | P8

Grand gateways and ornamental arches are part of the corridor
The Kashi Vishwanath shrine in Varanasi
RIVER GANGA
LALITA GHAT
From where the corridor begins
A night view of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor

24
NEW BUILDINGS BUILT IN THE DECLUTTERED PROJECT AREA

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

K'taka sees third case of Omicron

Techie first tested -ve on arrival from S Africa

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA reported its third Omicron case on Sunday. The patient, a 34-year-old software engineer, had returned from South Africa, where he had gone on an official assignment.

"He is isolated and is being treated at a government hospital," Health and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said. The patient landed at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on December 1. He tested negative on arrival, but he isolated himself as per protocol because he was returning from an "at-risk" country.

"The next day, he complained of body and muscle pain, which are symptoms of the Omicron variant of coronavirus. We tested his samples again which showed him to be positive for Covid," Sudhakar said.

The patient's RT-PCR test done the next day showed a drop in S-Gene, which is again an indicator of the Omicron variant. He was shifted to Bowring & Lady Curzon Hospital, designated for Omicron patients, on December 3 and his samples were sent for genome sequencing. "The test results arrived on Sunday that confirmed he was infected with Omicron," Sudhakar said.

FALSE RESULT

Sources from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) said the first test report at the airport could be a 'false negative' as CB-NAAT test is used at the airport. It is a rapid RT-PCR with results available in 45 minutes. But the accuracy is iffy at only 60 per cent.

CONTINUED ON: P3

2nd patient negative, but has bacterial infection

A doctor from Bengaluru, only the second patient to test positive for Omicron variant, has tested negative for Covid. But he will continue to remain in hospital as he is now infected with post-viral bacterial infection. Sources at Bowring & Lady Curzon Hospital said his RT-PCR test came negative on Saturday, nearly 21 days after he tested positive for Omicron. P3

NATIONWIDE	DEC 11	DEC 12
Fresh cases	7,992	7,774
Recoveries	9,265	8,464
Deaths	393	306

KARNATAKA	DEC 11	DEC 12
Fresh cases	317	330
Recoveries	317	304
Deaths	2	4

SA epicentre data offers hope

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

Even as India steps up surveillance and preparation in anticipation of a Covid surge, the latest news from the epicentre of the Omicron wave in South Africa could offer some comfort.

The new analysis from the Gauteng province shows that its current Covid-19 wave may have peaked already, with the highest number of cases recorded on Friday. The fatality rate was less than 0.5%. The world's first Omicron case was detected in the country less than three weeks ago.

The analysis is a model from the University of Johannesburg, based on the hospital data from the South Africa's National Institute of Communicable Disease, which was reported on Sunday. The data showed clear signs that Omicron infections are milder than the ones caused by Delta, which led to a devastating wave of Covid-19 in many countries this year.

Back home in India, where the Omicron tally now stands at 38, the Centre is continuing to pressure states on close surveillance, though there is no indication Omicron is triggering a surge in some districts. In a letter to 10 states on Saturday, Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan suggested measures like night curfews in districts that are witnessing high Covid positivity rate in the past two weeks.

Meanwhile, the WHO said after a review of early data on Sunday that Omicron is more transmissible than Delta and reduces vaccine efficacy against infection and transmission. It also causes less severe symptoms.

Rahul sharpens attack on Hindutva, Modi govt

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday launched a blistering attack on the BJP at a massive rally here, trying to draw a clear distinction between the terms Hindu and Hindutva, saying the latter was a political tool to grab power.

At a rally that was called to pressure the Centre to curb runaway inflation and price rise, Rahul's focus was on sharpening the ideological line that separates Hindutva-vadis from other Hindus. "I am a Hindu, but I am not a Hindutva-vadi. All of us are Hindus. Mahatma Gandhi was a Hindu but Nathuram Godse was a Hindutva-vadi," he said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi makes a gesture while speaking to his mother and party president Sonia Gandhi, during a rally in Jaipur on Sunday | PTI

While the path of Hindus is that of truth, the lust for power is the calling card for Hindutva-vadis, he alleged. Gandhiji stood for *Satyagraha* (search for truth), while Hindutva-vadis like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government are *Sattagrahi* (power grabber), he charged. Rahul went on to link inflation with Hindutva-vadis: "If there is inflation, then this is the work of the Hindutva-vadis."

Referring to the farmers' year-long protest which recently forced the government to roll-back its three farm sector reform laws, Rahul argued that the prime minister betrayed the farmers "because he is a Hindutva-vadi. When the Hindu farmers stood up, the Hindutva-vadi said 'I apologise'."

Echoing him, his sister and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra charged that the BJP government wants to sell off to select industrialist friends whatever the Congress had built in 70 years. P7

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EXPRESS READ

CM hints at tabling anti-conversion bill

Hubballi: The anti-conversion bill may be tabled in the winter session of the legislature beginning in Hubballi from Monday, hinted CM Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday. The cabinet and also the legislature will discuss the legislation if a committee set up to study it submits a report. P4

6 int'l schools from Bengaluru top list

Bengaluru: Six international schools from here topped the Education World India School Rankings. Indus International School is the best international day-cum-boarding school, while The International School Bangalore, Greenwood High International, and Stonehill International School stood 2nd, 3rd and 4th, respectively. P2

TORQUE

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday : 13/12/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Dakshinayna
• Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Margashira • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Dasami 12.07 am
• Nakshatra: Revathi 4.57 am • Moon in Mesha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 18°C | MAX 26°C
FORECAST
Cloudy

Sunrise 6.32 am
Sunset 5.55 pm
Moonrise 1.42 pm
Moonset 1.59 pm

02 BENGALURU MONDAY 13.12.2021 newindianexpress.com

SLOWED BY PANDEMIC, METRO WORK GAINS PACE

Elevated RV Road-Bommasandra line (Reach-5) on schedule

Infrastructure work under way on the RV Road-Bommasandra line (Reach-5) in Bengaluru

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

POST the accident involving the slippage of a 260-tonne girder two months ago and numerous safety checks, work on the 19.15-km elevated Metro line between RV Road and Bommasandra (Reach-5) has picked up pace.

The line has been divided into: Package One -- Bommasandra to Hosa Road; Package Two -- Hosa Road to HSR Layout; and Package Three – HSR Layout to RV Road. Akin to all infrastructure projects in the state, this work also took a beating from the pandemic, which affected construction activity for months.

A senior Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) official told *TNIE*: "The first two packages have 97-98 per cent of their civil work completed. They are on course to be fully readied by May or June next year and will be ready for commissioning by the end of 2022. We had a problem for land with NICE. We finally got that land in June this year, following which we could carry out pending work here. The last girder on the land acquired from NICE was laid by us just 10 days ago."

The third package will have Karnataka's first Rail-Cum-Road Flyover at any Metro station. "We have completed 65 per cent of the work here. For the first time, we will be building such a flyover, and hence, are being very careful about it," he said. Nagpur and Jaipur Metro have already done them.

The Line is being constructed for BMRCL by a joint venture concern between Hindustan Construction Company Limited and URC Construction Private Limited.

The Jayadeva Interchange Metro station here will connect with the Reach-6 Underground Line (Nagawara - Kalena Agrahara). The access to the station at all four corners is a significant feature of this multi-level station consisting of underpass road, at grade road, road-flyover, two levels of Metro and interchange facility between Metro levels.

Land for Metro: All Saints Church members protest

ENS @ Bengaluru

FOR the third consecutive Sunday, protests continued against the decision of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited to acquire land belonging to the All Saints Church.

BMRCL has issued notice to acquire nearly 883 sq metres of the church's property, on the Richmond Road-Hosur Road junction, to carry out infrastructure work for the Vellara Junction Metro station on its underground corridor (Kalena Agrahara-Gottigere Line).

The protest began at 10.30 am and continued till 5.30 pm at the open space inside the church premises, with nearly 300 individuals, comprising church members environmental organisations. Banners against acquisition of the land were displayed by the participants.

Ebenezer Prem Kumar, who played a key role in the protests organised by the church congregation, told *TNIE*: "BMRCL wants to build the vent for its Vellara Junction Metro station here and issued us a notification on November 4 about it. We fear for the safety of our church, which is 152 years old."

Kumar said they have also proposed an alternative to BMRCL. "The corporation had already acquired 103 metres of land belonging to the Defence across the church. The proposed structures could be built there," he added. BMRCL did not respond to queries.

In a rush to board, flyers leave gadgets behind

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru:

FORGETFUL flyers have left behind a whopping 32,169 items inside Kempegowda International Airport and its surroundings in the past eight months. Electronic items dominate the list, says airport operator Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

A BIAL spokesperson said that 9,962 items had been deposited at the 'Lost and Found' section of the airport from April 1 to November 30 this year. "Personal electronic articles are the most forgotten, and constitute 30 per cent of the total number of articles we receive. Mobiles, iPads, headphones/earphones and device chargers figure in this list."

Procedure to reclaim lost items

Call airport 24x7 helpline: 080-66782257 (within India) or +918066782257 (from abroad)

Owner should produce copy of boarding pass, details of items being claimed, government photo-ID proof	Those authorised to claim the item should furnish govt ID of owner and boarding pass, own ID details, authorisation letter from owner	If you spot an item inside the airport, contact CISF personnel or airport employee. Take care not to touch any unclaimed article until the CISF team screens it

Electronic items are most often left behind in the dash to reach the boarding gates, says BIAL. "The highest number of lost articles is from the Pre-Embarkation Security Check (PSEC) area," the spokesperson added. A total of 1,089 pieces of jewellery and 2,083 cash entries have also been registered. In pandemic-hit 2020-2021, only 21,273 articles were deposited during the entire financial year, said BIAL. By contrast, 2019-2020 saw 42,339 items at the 'Lost and Found' counter.

A standard rule is followed for lost items: Items are retained for one month from the date of deposit and are disposed of if not claimed within this time. Indian passports are posted with the Regional Passport Office, while foreign passports are sent to the respective embassies after a 30 day-retention period; Bank cards, cheque books and pass books are disposed of after 48 hours. Perishables such as food are disposed of within 24 hours.

Details of all items are uploaded on the airport website, and can be reached on this link: https://www.bengaluruairport.com/travellers/passenger-services/lost-found.html

THALAIVA'S BIG DAY

Fans of Rajinikanth celebrate the superstar's birthday by cutting a 71-foot-long cake weighing 200 kg at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAMBN

'Need movement to fight communal issues'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THERE is a need to build a powerful people's movement to combat various critical issues that plague the country, particularly the rise in communal tensions, said retired Karnataka High Court judge Justice HN Nagamohan Das on Sunday.

At a symposium organised by the Forum for Democracy and Communal Amity (FDCA-K), he said there is no respect for dissent in the country. "The freedom of speech and expression includes the right to express our views, our dissenting views, and to criticise, question and keep silent. But today, you cannot question, criticise or express a different opinion from the government," he observed.

Meanwhile, journalist Aakar Patel, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind president Syed Sadatullah Husaini and FDCA-K general secretary and former Inspector General of Police MF Pasha stressed on several issues primarily focusing on communal violence. They offered statistical, judicial and personal insights into problems that minorities faced in the country.

Husaini said, "We need to unite people from all strata -- the intellectuals, thought leaders, civil society, the youth, women's groups, religious leaders, political and grassroot activists, farmers, labourers and others." He said, "Our Parliament can be truly representative when different political ideologies, opinions, cultural leanings and aspirations of different ethnic-cultural groups are proportionately represented." Patel said, "We're going through a period where the mob is empowered. The government feels enabled if people stay silent."

Pasha said, "The fundamental principles of equality, fraternity and freedom, so clearly and emphatically enshrined in the Constitution, are being unabashedly thrown to the winds and sacrificed at the altar of political expediency."

We need to unite people from all strata -- the intellectuals, thought leaders, civil society, the youth, women's groups, religious leaders, political and grassroot activists, farmers, labourers and others

Syed Sadatullah Husaini, president, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind

The fundamental principles of equality, fraternity and freedom, so clearly and emphatically enshrined in the Constitution, are being unabashedly thrown to the winds and sacrificed at the altar of political expediency

Aakar Patel, Journalist

Six Bengaluru international schools top national rankings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SIX international schools of Bengaluru came out on top, according to the Education World India School Rankings (EWISR) 2021-22.

The six schools are placed in the top-10 for best day and day-cum-boarding schools in India. Indus International School was named the best international day-cum-boarding school in India, while The International School, Greenwood High International, and Stonehill International School took the second, third and fourth ranks, respectively. Sharanya Narayani International School, Bengaluru, was ranked the ninth best in the same category.

Meanwhile, Legacy School, Bengaluru, was ranked eighth best in the country in terms of international day schools, according to the EWISR. Under co-ed boardings schools, Jain International Residential School, Bengaluru, was ranked eighth in the country, while Sarala Birla Academy, Bengaluru, was ranked as the sixth best boys boarding school. Under the budget private school category, New Blossoms Education Society and Ashwini Public School ranked seventh and eighth in the country, respectively.

While Indus International School, Bengaluru, maintained its lead from last year, several of the schools had risen in rank since the 2020-2021 rankings.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

13th December : I am going to take a look at a number of planets this week. To start with, Venus: the Chinese call it the Metal Planet on account of its silvery whiteness, and associated it with weapons, war and the military. A Chinese astrologer would look at Venus' currently strong position and say, 'it's not a bad time for an argument'!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The pressure of the last few weeks should now be over. At least you, like most other people, have now adapted to the status quo. Over the next few days you'll have all the time you need for self-reflection. The most important people you meet this week are likely to be out-of the-ordinary and, potentially, an enormous force for change.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Mars is hanging around the inspirational sectors of your chart, and you might well be carried away on a flight of fancy. But remember that, for the coming few weeks, you must take a stronger line than usual over financial affairs and business arrangements.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You often have it all your own way, mainly by the simple art of spreading your options around but, on many recent occasions, people have expected you to cave in and agree to their demands. The situation is now shifting quite rapidly, and you will be urged to stand your ground and not give way.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
No matter how stressful the past few months have seemed, it is time for plain thinking. Even those Cancerians who have been on a high must now take a very down-to-earth and matter-of-fact approach to all personal matters. In other words, take control!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The focus is on other people. This means, inevitably, that you must stand aside and allow partners, colleagues and friends to hog the limelight. If you attempt to take the lead, you must expect to be unceremoniously toppled. But if you're generous in defeat then your chivalry will never be forgotten.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You may have to be on the move, but there is no knowing what can be accomplished personally and professionally. As long as Mercury, planet of thought and reason, is moving so erratically, the future remains obscure, but that's because the possibilities are so amazing.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Although an indirect approach may be best, you could still fail to get your message across. If, on the other hand, you are dealing with insoluble mysteries and intangible questions, you may be on safer ground. Also, of course, your individual gifts are becoming more marked by the day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You're probably going to have little choice but to deal with domestic questions or family affairs. There's just no way certain people can be properly handled if you only allow them a little of your time. Do your bit and give them all the attention they need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
In spite of your reputation for being a tower of strength, you do have a number of reservations about allowing other people to rely on you. Neither should you permit anyone to push you too far. It seems that your best policy is to establish proper boundaries.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Let's turn our attention back to the amazing alignments of Jupiter and Saturn. You really do seem to believe that it is your prerogative to put the world to rights, and you may well be quite correct. But watch out, because you might also have to foot the bill.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
By rights the day should kick off to a good start, although I'll wager that more of you than usual will have experienced some sort of strange dream or broken night. Whatever is on your plate, domestic questions are not about to answer themselves, so get down to the nitty-gritty.

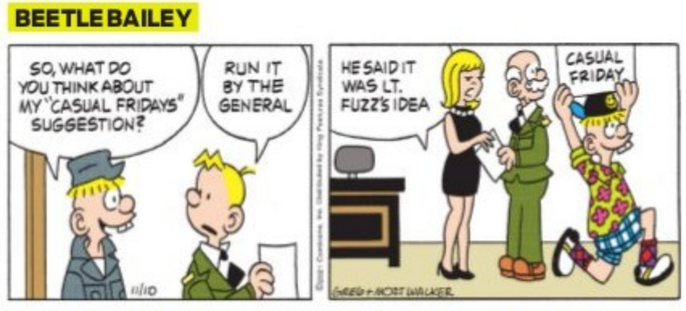
PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
While the Sun is so positive, you must make the development of partnerships, both personal and professional, your principal goal. Don't expect dramatic results, but look for interesting openings which can be developed later - and try to surround yourself with useful people.

THE PHANTOM

ARE YOU AWARE THAT MOZZ....!
THE GENTLEMAN SITTING ON THE GROUND OVER THERE....!
IS WRITING IN ONE OF YOUR CHRONICLES!?
THAT WOULD BE UNHEARD OF, DIANA....
HE'S WRITING IN HIS CHRONICLE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
A BLANK VOLUME I GAVE HIM..
Falk 11/8

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY


SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MY "CASUAL FRIDAYS" SUGGESTION?
RUN IT BY THE GENERAL
HE SAID IT WAS LT. FUZZ'S IDEA
CASUAL FRIDAY
GREG + MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

LOOK, MR. B! I MADE YOU THIS COOL CARTOON IN ART CLASS!
REALLY? LET'S SEE
IT'S MR. DITHERS GIVING YOU A RAISE!
WHOA! I LOVE IT!
WOW! YOU REALLY GAVE IT A PLACE OF HONOR!
I SURE DID.. A CARTOON RAISE IS BETTER THAN NO RAISE!

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

Easy: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

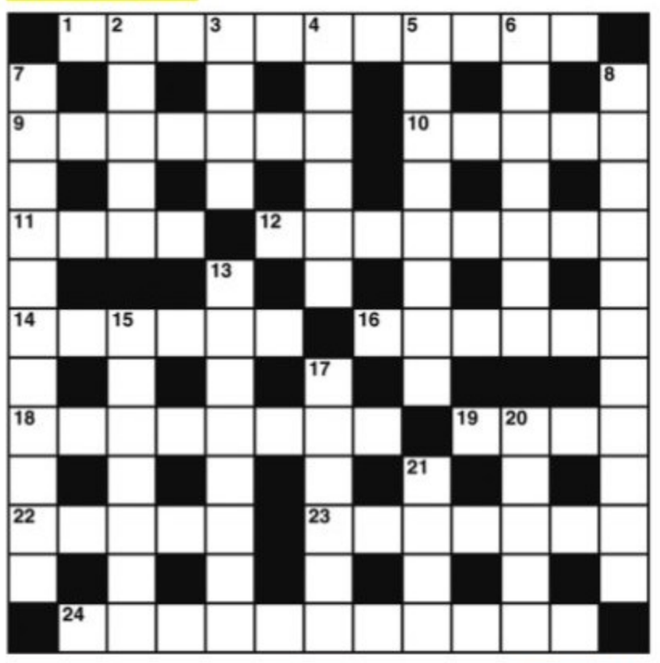
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

	2		7	3	4	1		
3				8		2	9	
	4	5	2			7	8	
			9				4	7
		7				3		
9	1				3			
	9	3			7	6	5	
	5	1		6				8
		8	4	5	1		3	

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

7	5	8	9	3	4	2	1	6
4	1	2	5	7	6	8	3	9
3	6	9	8	2	1	7	5	4
6	3	5	4	8	2	9	7	1
1	9	7	6	5	3	4	2	8
8	2	4	1	9	7	5	6	3
5	4	1	7	6	8	3	9	2
2	7	6	3	4	9	1	8	5
9	8	3	2	1	5	6	4	7

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Inauguration of a company? (11)
9 Brief biography of a professional record holder (7)
10 Habit Tommy got into (5)
11 Frenchman in a fancy vest (4)
12 It's not fair for me to use this (8)
14 Nothing further on Rome strangely enough (2,4)
16 Stays to give personal support (6)
18 He has a growing interest in his job (8)
19 Practise boxing in the yard (4)
22 The toast of former operagoers (5)
23 New part ordered in Belgium (7)
24 How things may be bought for cash (2,1,8)

DOWN

2 One so confused may be caught by it (5)
3 Journey in the fall (4)
4 She comes from the hamlet (6)
5 Become established down under? (4,4)
6 Carole's making announcements (7)
7 No sport for the amateur (1,6,4)
8 Martin hopes to mix the very thing he hates (11)
13 Let the workman go without guidance (4,4)
15 Swift to provide a market permit (7)
17 Honours damsel in distress (6)
20 Tidy up? No, down (5)
21 A man to turn to (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Putter, 4 Assisted, 9 Tagged, 10 Chestnut, 12 Pets, 13 Epsom, 14 Song, 17 One-track mind, 20 Clear-sighted, 23 Load, 24 Wives, 25 Mete, 28 Restrain, 29 Plague, 30 Disperse, 31 Upshot.

Down: 1 Put-up job, 2 Together, 3 Ewer, 5 Schoolmaster, 6 Inst, 7 Tin-pot, 8 Dotage, 11 Specialities, 15 Brill, 16 Snags, 18 Strength, 19 Adherent, 21 Florid, 22 Masses, 26 Free, 27 Clip.

JUMBLE

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIVAL

GAMIE

GTBLEO

NFYOLD

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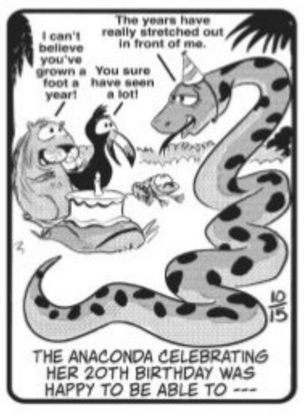
I can't believe you've grown a foot a year!
The years have really stretched out in front of me.
You sure have seen a lot!
THE ANACONDA CELEBRATING HER 20TH BIRTHDAY WAS HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:** GULCH KITTY FALLEN BRANCH
ANSWER: After stuffing himself with junk food, his wife had to listen to his – BELLYACHING

4 test positive in Davanagere school

Four students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Devarahalli village of Channagiri taluk in Davanagere district tested positive for Covid-19 on Sunday. As soon as the Rapid Antigen Test came positive, the entire premises was sealed and the district surveillance officials took the samples of all the 539 people, including 25 staffers, of the school

Doc Covid -ve, but has post-viral infection

Seven international passengers in Bowring Hospital, await genome sample results

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

A health worker administers Covid-19 vaccine to a man at an upper primary health centre on JC Road in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

THE Bengaluru doctor, one of the first patients to test positive for the Omicron variant in India, has tested negative for Covid-19. However, he will remain in hospital as he is now infected with post-viral bacterial infection.

According to sources at Bowring And Lady Curzon Hospital, where the anaesthetist is being treated, his RT-PCR test came negative for Covid-19 on Saturday, nearly 21 days after he tested positive for Omicron. "His samples tested positive twice earlier, and he couldn't be discharged as the results didn't meet the criteria of the state's discharge policy for the Omicron variant. However, he is now showing symptoms of fever and his blood count has gone up, indicating post-viral bacterial infection.

"This is not an uncommon phenomenon. It happens with many viral infections. He will get better with one round of antibiotics," said a senior doctor.

Seven suspect Omicron cases

In Bengaluru, seven international passengers who have arrived from at-risk countries, are suspected to be cases of Omicron. Genome sample results of the seven patients, who are under treatment at Bowring Hospital, are awaited. However, none of them is seriously ill and have displayed only mild symptoms.

A senior doctor told TNIE, "All the seven are in separate wards. Their genome sample results are awaited. These patients landed in Bengaluru from December 1 onwards, and have come to hospital after testing positive for Covid-19."

Delay in getting genome sequencing reports has irked the travellers too. It's been more than 10 days since some of them were admitted, and they continue to wait for the reports to come in.

Meanwhile, BBMP has identified six private hospitals for treatment of international passengers at their own cost: Manipal, Apollo, Suguna, Fortis, Sakra and Rainbow Hospitals.

In Suguna Hospital, two patients -- a nine-year-old and a 60-year-old -- are awaiting their genome sample results. A 32-year-old woman is being treated at Manipal Hospital and is awaiting her genome report.

Contacts of 3rd Omicron patient test negative

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THERE are chances of false negatives in such tests. Another German national tested negative at the airport but later tested positive. That person has been admitted to one of the designated private hospitals and is waiting for genome sequencing analysis results. The accuracy of conventional RT-PCR is 70-80 per cent, but the result takes six hours, which can lead to crowding at the airport," the official said.

NO SYMPTOMS NOW

Senior doctors at Bowring & Lady Curzon Hospital told *The New Indian Express* that the patient is not showing any Covid symptoms and is doing fine. "It's been 11 days already and he has no symptoms. As per the BBMP protocol for Omicron variant, we will test him tomorrow and again after 24 hours. If both his tests return negative, he will be discharged," said a senior doctor treating the patient at the hospital.

His five primary and 15 secondary contacts were traced and tested whose results returned negative.

"We have anyway asked the contacts to remain under isolation and our authorities are monitoring their health condition," Sudhakar said.

The second samples of all primary and secondary contacts were collected on the eighth day and results are awaited. Depending on the results of the second samples, further action will be initiated as per the prevailing guidelines.

The first two cases of Omicron were detected first in Karnataka on December 2. They included a 66-year-old South African national, who arrived in Bengaluru via Dubai last month, and a 46-year-old doctor in Bengaluru with no travel history.

IN THE DOCK

Four held for giving fake -ve report to S African

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HIGH Grounds police arrested four staffers of a private lab, following the escape of a South African national who had tested positive for the Omicron variant. The accused had issued a fake negative report to the African national, and after he escaped from the five-star hotel where he was staying, BBMP lodged a complaint with the police against the patient and hotel, under the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act.

A senior police officer said the accused, who worked in a lab on Airport Road, had issued a fake report to the South African who had arrived in Bengaluru on November 20, and was tested at KIA. The result came positive for Covid-19. Further tests had found that he was infected with the Omicron variant of the virus. BBMP officials had quarantined him at Shangri La hotel on Palace Road.

The hotel staff allegedly allowed him to leave the hotel on November 27, after he produced the report from a private laboratory, stating that he was negative for Covid-19. The hotel staff had not informed BBMP officials about his departure.

As the patient and hotel allegedly violated Covid-19 guidelines, Dr Naveen Kumar M, Medical Officer of BBMP East Division, filed a complaint with High Grounds police on Sunday. Based on the complaint, police registered an FIR under Sections 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 271 (disobedience to quarantine rule), other sections of the IPC and provisions of the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020.

TRACKING COVID-19

DURATION OF PANDEMIC
1 YEAR, 278 DAYS

CASES REPORTED
Today: **330** | Yesterday: **317**

TALLY
Today: **30,00,435**
Yesterday: **30,00,105**

DEATHS	DISCHARGES
Today: **4**	Today: **304**
Yesterday: **2**	Yesterday: **317**

ACTIVE CASES
Today: **7,328**
Yesterday: **7,306**

POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
Today: **5.49%**	Today: **1.27%**
Yesterday: **5.50%**	Yesterday: **1.27%**

RECOVERY RATE
Today: **98.47%**
Yesterday: **98.48%**

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

Bengaluru Urban	**205**
Bengaluru Rural	**0**
Bagalkot	0
Ballari	3
Belagavi	7
Bidar	1
Chamarajanagar	0
Chikkaballapur	0
Chikkamagaluru	2
Chitradurga	2
Dakshina Kannada	15
Davanagere	4
Dharwad	3
Gadag	0
Hassan	5
Haveri	1
Kalaburagi	1
Kodagu	40
Kolar	3
Koppal	0
Mandya	5
Mysuru	13
Raichur	0
Ramanagara	0
Shivamogga	11
Tumakuru	5
Udupi	1
Uttara Kannada	2
Vijayapura	1
Yadgir	0

Steady demand for antibody cocktail in Mysuru district

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

DOCTORS are recommending antibody cocktail to reverse Covid effects to those infected with SARS-CoV-2 having mild or moderate symptoms. In a span of over four months, over 60 patients have availed this therapy at Manipal Hospitals in Mysuru. With reports emerging that the antibody cocktail reduces the chance of developing Covid by trying to mimic the immune system's ability to fight harmful viruses, this new protocol has emerged as a ray of hope to patients.

The drug which can be administered to those above 12 years with mild to moderate symptoms is able to attract more people from the city and the Kerala government has also listed the therapy in its Covid-19 treatment guidebook.

According to Dr Lakshmi Narasimhan, Consultant Pulmonologist, Manipal Hospitals, Mysuru, said: "Efficacy of antibody cocktail therapy is good and with the expectation of third wave, awareness about the right treatment is vital. If a positive patient or his primary contact gets the antibody cocktail therapy at the right time, it is possible to prevent severity/hospitalisation, especially in chronic cases."

He further revealed that there has been less than 1% incidence of progression to severe disease and no deaths at all among the patients administered with the drug.

"No patient experienced any adverse effect," he said.

Integrative cancer centre opens, offers ayurveda treatment

ENS @ Bengaluru

IN a first in India, two hospitals will be collaborating to provide ayurvedic treatment to cancer patients in Bengaluru.

Sri Shankara Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SSCHRC), and AyurVAID Hospitals have set up a centre where patients can undergo ayurvedic treatment to alleviate effects of both cancer and cancer treatment. Speaking at the launch of the Centre for Integrative Oncology (CIO), Dr B S Srinath, managing trustee for SSCHRC, said, "Both systems of medicine have their own strengths, it's time for both of them to come together so that patients can get benefits from both sides." This introduction of ayurveda in cancer treatment will be a first as until now, no hospital has focused on integrating ayurveda in oncology in India. Both hospitals believe the integration will help alleviate both mental and physical stress of patients, and help in their recovery. "We had a woman who came to us 12 years after chemotherapy, when she had suffered multiple side-effects, and after a couple of weeks of ayurvedic treatment, her side-effects were gone," said Rajiv Vasudevan, managing director and CEO of AyurVAID.

Vasudevan stressed that treatment was limited to supportive care and was not a cure for cancer. Dr Srinath said, "Many patients are worried, scared or stressed because of cancer, so the treatment helps alleviate that stress and gives both psychological and physical support to patients." Vasudevan elaborated on the treatment, saying, "It's more about boosting the morale of the patient, as many are susceptible to various issues as a result of the disease and treatment, so ayurveda helps alleviate those issues."

COVID BYTES

4 more Covid deaths

Bengaluru: Karnataka's Covid-19 cumulative count reached 30,00,435 on Sunday after it crossed the 30 lakh-mark on Saturday. Four deaths reported on Sunday took the state's Covid toll to 38,261. A total of 3,37,93,878 people have received two doses of Covid-19 vaccination across the Karnataka. ENS

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
O/o the Chief Engineer, Hydrology
Water Resources Department

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Online Tenders are invited through e-procurement mode for the following works: NIT No.NHP/APSW/NCB/ADCP/2/2021-22, date:13/12/2021
Name Of Work : Supply, Testing and Commissioning of 3 Nos of Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCP) With DGPS For Andhra Pradesh Surface Water under National Hydrology Project (NHP). **PID & Package No.:** PID:10205 & Package No: NHP-2021-2022-APSW-352308. Start/Last Date/Time of Tender document schedules available : From 13/12/2021 at 11.00 AM to 17/01/2022 up to 3:00 PM. Start/Last Date/Time for Submission of Tenders : From 27/12/2021 at 11:00 AM to 17/01/2022 up to 3.00 PM. Bid Opening Date, Time : 17/01/2022 at 3:30 PM. Name and address of the Superintending Engineer concerned : As per Bid Document.
Interested authorized / reputed Bidders may obtain the tender schedule from https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. For Further details visit http://nhp.mowr.gov.in/home/TenderDetails.aspx and http://irrigationap.cgg.gov.in/wrd/getTenderDigest.
Contact Numbers: **7893963434, 9494607979, and 8331019653**
Contact email: **andhrasw@ap.gov.in**
Sd/- T V N A R Kumar, Chief Engineer, Hydrology, dt.09/12/2021
DIPR No.546PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt:10/12/2021

Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd
Registered Office: Plot No 59 & 60- 23,22nd Cross, 29th Main BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560076. **www.vistaarfinance.com**

APPENDIX IV [See rule 8 (1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Vistaar Financial Services Private Limited** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued **Demand Notice dated 26-08-2021** calling upon the **Borrower(s) Mr/Mrs. Basavaraju B & Mr/Mrs.Nanjundaiah B** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs. 26,18,444/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Four Only)** against **Loan Account No.0070SBML01861** as on 05-08-2021 along with future interest and other charges etc till actual payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice..

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **10th day of December of the year 2021**.

The Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Vistaar Financial Services Private Limited** for an amount **Rs. 26,18,444/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Four Only) as on 05-08-2021** along with future interest and other charges etc till actual payment.

The Borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

Description of the Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing Khatha No.232/5079/5524, Residing at Jyothinagar, Magadi (Town) Magadi Taluk, Ramanagar District, Ward No.14, **bounded on:** East:- Property Belongs to Shivanna, West:- Road, North:- Property Belongs to Lakshmamma, South:- Road, Extent Land Area Measuring 30*30 Feet And RCC House, The property is Situated with the Magadi TMC Limits.

Date: 10 /12 /2021 | **Authorized Officer**
Place: Magadi | **Vistaar Financial Services Private Limited**

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IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
O.S. No. 7782 of 2018 (CCH 2)

Sunil Abraham, The President, Centre for Internet and Society, Services A society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960 Having its registered office at No. 106 Vineyard Jasmine Apartments, Bank Avenue, 1st main road, Babusapalya Bengaluru - 560071 **v/s**
Usha Nandini, Kamath Travels, D Zone Currency G Vijay Travel Zone, State Bank of India

NOTICE/SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT NO. 1, 4 AND 5

To
Usha Nandini, 22, 21st cross, Shanthi Layout Main Road, Akshaya Nagar, 2nd Block, SBI Bank Colony, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru 560 016
...Defendant No.1
G Vijay, #75, Yadava Layout, Nehru Main Road, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560084
...Defendant No.4
Travel Zone, No. 33, 8th cross, Ramaiah Layout, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560084
...Defendant No.5

Whereas the above named plaintiff instituted a suit against you for recovery of money INR 1,06,63,599 with interest from the date of the suit till realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court on 6 January 2022 at11AM in person or through an advocate/pleader to answer the questions to the same failing which the suit will be heard and determined as ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of the court this 24th day of Nov. 2021

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar,
City civil Court, Bangalore,

Name, Signature and address of the Advocate for Plaintiff
Y Sankeerth Vittal, Advocate, KAR 842/2016

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GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
Tel. 06766-258301(O), email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
e-Procurement Notice for Bridge Works under BSY
Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No. 328
O-1296
No. 4711 / Date: 09-12-2021

1. Name of the work :- **Bridge Works under BSY in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of work :- **02 (Two) Nos.**
3. Estimated Cost :- **As per Annexure in NIT**
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) :- As per Annexure in NIT
5. Period of Completion :- **As per Annexure in NIT**
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W. Circle, Keonjhar	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Bridge Online NCB No. 328	Dt.14.12.21 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.23.12.21 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.22.12.21 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.24.12.21 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
Sd/- N.V. H. Rao, Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar OIPR-25177/11/0019/2122

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that **Sri. VENKATARAMANA.C.S,** S/o.Sri. Shankaraiah. C.V, No.C918, Brigade Panorama, Mysore Road, Opp to Rajarajeshwari Dental College, Kambipura, Bangalore-560 074 is interested in purchase of the below mentioned schedule property, from **Sri. MAHESH.R S/o. Late Rajanna,** residing at Manjunatha Layout, Chellagatta Grama, Kumbalgud Post, Kengeri Hobli, BENGALURU-560 074, (purchased from Smt. Shivalingamma W/o.Basavaraju, earlier owner of 3-00 Acre Granted Land in Sy.No. 73, Bheemanakuppe, Acquired by BDA and allotted schedule property to her under 60:40 Ratio) he now being the owner of the same.

It is also informed and brought to the notice of all that if any interested individual person /company/ financial institutions / Nationalized Bank /co-operative Bank/Government of Karnataka /BDA/KIADB/ etc., is having any claim over the Schedule property, they may contact the below mentioned address/Mobile numbers with documents, ***within 7 days*** from the date of publication of this public notice, otherwise my client will purchase the schedule property and my client is not at all responsible for any claim, that comes after 7 days.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Site No.5843,** (Formed in Sy.No.19\2 of Chellagatta Grama), Situated at **NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, 5th BLOCK, I- SECTOR, formed by BDA,** Measuring. **East to West :9-00 Meters and North to South 6-00 Meters, totally 54 square Meters,** bounded on the:
East By : 9 Meter Road
West by : Site No.5822,
North by : Site No.5844, and
South by : Site No.5842.

Sd/-
R. SREENIVASA RAO, *ADVOCATE*
No.213, I 'B' Main Road,
Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangaluru-560 060
Contact Nos.:
94480 85270 / 73386 33852
venki302001@yahoo.co.in
Bangalore: Date: 12.12.2021

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Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

LOCAL PUBLIC EXHIBITION FOR COMMEMORATION OF 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AT DIQA, BANGALORE FROM 13-19 DEC21

Ministry of Defence/DGQA is organizing various events to showcase the journey of QA and Defence QA over last 75 years. As part of these events, DGQA is organizing an exhibition for school and college going students.

Location : Defence Institute of Quality Assurance (DIQA), Benson Town, Bangalore
Duration : 13 to 19 Dec 21
Timing : 0900 - 1430 hrs

The various exhibitors / PSU's / Private vendors would showcase equipments, test facilities, pictures, cut outs/models, banners, QA work being carried out, Showing various MoD Schemes and showcasing DGQA contribution in Atma Nirbhar Bharat etc. Also videos of QA activities being undertaken by Navy and Army will also be screened.

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हम समझें आपकी दुनिया

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY) ANNEXURE—VI
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice along with interest, penal interest, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.
The borrowers, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section 4 of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **07.12.2021.**
The borrower, in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **HDFC Bank Ltd,** for amount mentioned below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from the date of notice.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Immovable Properties
1	1.Mr. Mohammad Saifulla, 2. Mrs. Farzana Sultana,	10-08-2021	Rs.37,24,124.8 + interest Penal interest +charge+ cost from 09.08.2021	All that piece and parcel of residential House List No.3, Khatha No 91/1, situated at Cholanayakanahalli Village, Gramathana, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 48 Feet, North to South 30 Feet and bounded on the: East by: Property of Kenchappa, West by: Road, North by: Private Property, South by: Private Property
2.	1. Extra , Proprietor : Sher Ali Shaik 2. Mr. Sher Ali Shaik 3. Mrs. Mohammedi Nazheth Sher Ali Shaik	10-08-2021	Rs.22,56,493/- + interest Penal interest +charge+ cost from 09.08.2021	All the piece and portion of the property bearing House No 14, New Khatha No 91, carved out of Old Khatha No 89/1, situated at Cholanayakanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, (Appanna block, Chamundi Nagar), Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 48 Ft and North to South 30 Ft, totally 1440 Sq Ft and bounded on the:East by: Property bearing No.3, West by: Road, North by: Property bearing No 14A South by: Property bearing No 13

Place : Bangalore,
Date : 07.12.2021
Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.
Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDFC Bank Ltd.

JDS natural ally of BJP, says Siddu

Congress leader Siddaramaiah said that the JDS is nothing but the BJP's B-team as the regional party contested in only 6 of the 25 constituencies that went to polls in the Legislative Council elections held recently. "JDS has always been a natural ally of the BJP," the former CM said

Oppn to pin down govt on Bitcoin, floods

Anti-conversion Bill also on agenda; Speaker may reserve 2 days for debate on N K'taka

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR@ Belagavi

An illuminated Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on the eve of the 10-day winter session of the State Legislature in Belagavi

A 10-day winter session at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi from Monday, being conducted amid the volatile Covid situation, is expected to throw many challenges to the State Government.

Besides getting involved in a heated debate on the anti-conversion Bill, expected to be tabled in the session, opposition is desperate to take on the government over issues related to Bitcoin scam, allegations of 40% commission demanded from contractors, failure to tackle Covid and flood crisis, damage due to untimely rains, repeal of the APMC Act after the three farm laws were repealed and others.

Interestingly, the results of the elections to 25 Legislative Council seats will be declared on Tuesday and if the ruling BJP wins more seats, it will be a shot in the arm for the Bommai-led government.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai expressed confidence that the session will be held effectively for all the 10 days. "The session is being held in Belagavi after two years and the government will welcome debates on any issues related to development of North Karnataka," he said.

Opposition and various organisations, including Christian priests and churches, have opposed the anti-conversion Bill, exerting pressure on Bommai against bringing it in the session. But, sources said, the Bill is expected to be tabled when the session enters the fifth or sixth day followed by the APMC Bill. The JDS is yet to clarify whether it will support or oppose the anti-conversion Bill and its decision will depend on the outcome of Council polls, sources said. JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy will not be available in the session for the first two days.

While the government is under pressure to discuss issues related to North Karnataka, mainly Mahadayi and Upper Krishna Projects besides flood-related damage, Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri said he will explore the possibility of earmarking two days exclusively for discussions on issues pertaining to the region. He said, "I will discuss it in the Business Advisory Committee meeting scheduled at 10.30 am prior to the session tomorrow (Monday)."

The session also has to discuss problems of the people of entire Karnataka, he said.

According to Belagavi district officials, over 2,500 rooms have been booked in various hotels, resorts and guesthouses, to accommodate the members and officials arriving for the session.

CM going to Ayodhya today

Bommai will arrive for the session on Monday morning and will leave for Ayodhya on a special flight at 2 pm from the Belagavi airport. He will not be available during the session till Wednesday evening, sources said.

Farmers to protest outside Soudha

BELAGAVI : Farmers from different parts of the state will stage a dharna in front of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi under the leadership of farmer leader Kodihalli Chandrashekar on the first day of the winter session on Monday demanding that the State Government withdraw the amendments to the APMC Act and the Land Reforms Act. President of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha **Kodihalli Chandrashekar** said farmers will continue their protest until the State Government withdraws the 'contentious' Bills, which he said were against farmers. "We will conduct Mahapanchayats in all Assembly seats in Karnataka and show black flags to ministers in their programmes. The government must respond to the problems of the farmers," he said. The farmers claimed that the government will provide a good market to corporates besides handing over agricultural land to them.The government should withdraw the three farm laws which have been already withdrawn by the Centre, he said while condemning the statement of Law Minister JC Madhuswamy that the State need not withdraw them if the Centre had already repealed it Kodihalli said that the State Government will be known as anti-farmer if it worked against the interest of farmers.

Kageri: I expect a meaningful session

BELAGAVI: Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri told reporters that he expects the session to be meaningful. "I expect the proceedings to be meaningful and its outcome will be in the interest of the people notwithstanding the challenges being faced by the district administration in making foolproof arrangements," he said. When asked about the several organisations deciding to protest outside the Soudha during the session, Kageri said he expected the government to respond to their demands.

CM hints at tabling anti-conversion Bill

AMIT S UPADHYE @Hubballi

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday hinted at taking up the anti-conversion Bill for discussion in the upcoming winter session scheduled to begin from Monday at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi.

He said the Bill will be discussed if the committee set up to study the legislation submits its report. "The Bill is not aimed at any particular community. All communities come under the Constitution. I have spoken to leaders of the Christian community and I assure them that they will not face any problems. But it is wrong to lure someone into a community on the basis of hunger. Conversions are not good for society. The government is trying to table the bill soon," the Chief Minister added.

"Currently, the law department is going through the bill. The committee will submit its report to the cabinet. If it does so during the winter session, we will hold discussions in the cabinet and also during the session," the Chief Minister added.

The winter session will also discuss the developmental needs of Kittur and Kalyana Karnataka regions, Bommai added.

He reiterated that the number of genome sequencing labs to determine various variants of the Coronavirus, including the new Omicron infection, will be increased in the coming days.

"We already have a genome sequencing lab and an Omicron testing lab," he added.

A section of Congress leaders has already expressed displeasure over tabling of the anti-conversion bill in the legislature. "So far, there have been no protests by either Congress or Janata Dal (Secular) leaders. But there are chances of opposition when the bill is presented," said a political analyst.

Deve Gowda to attend biography launch today, but will not speak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

'FURROWS in a Field — The Unexplored Life of H D Deve Gowda', a biography of the former Prime Minister and JDS veteran leader by author Sugatha Srinivasaraju, in due for release in New Delhi on Monday.

Gowda, wife Chennamma, his family members, son-in-laws Dr CN Manjunath and Dr Chandrashekar, and others are scheduled to participate in the launch of the biography. Gowda will be in the audience and will not speak or participate because it is an independent work, Srinivasaraju told TNIE. Veteran politicians Farooq Abdullah, Jairam Ramesh, Sitaram Yechury and P Chidambaram are expected to attend the event, where eminent lawyer Fali S Nariman will release the book.

Referring to the incidents of July 31 and August 1, 1991, in the Lok Sabha, the book recalls how during a heated discussion on Manmohan Singh's first budget, Gowda had rushed to the well of the House to pressure the government to roll back its decision to end subsidies for the farm sector. "I am a farmer and a tiller's son, and I will not allow this. I will sit on dharna...," he had said then.

In 2002, when farmer suicides were being reported in big numbers from across India, Gowda took a delegation of nearly 2,000 farmers from Karnataka by train to Delhi, and got them an audience with then PM Atal Behari Vajpayee. "It was unprecedented, especially for a former PM, to protest in this manner. People in Delhi were bewildered," says the book, published by Penguin Random House India. "As a tribute to Gowda's lifelong commitment to the farmers' cause, his policy initiatives for the peasant community, and stellar pro-farmer budget of 1996-97, the farmers of Punjab named one of the finest varieties of paddy as 'Deve Gowda'."

Ibrahim meets Siddu, DKS, eyes Council Oppn leader post

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CONGRESS MLC CM Ibrahim, who had distanced himself from the Congress in the recent past and renewed his friendship with the JDS top brass, is seemingly trying to patch up with the Grand Old Party.

Ibrahim, who had even skipped the event where Abdul Jabbar was appointed KPCC minority cell president in Bengaluru recently, met Congress state president DK Shivakumar on Saturday and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah on Sunday.

When quizzed about him lobbying for the post of the Leader of Opposition in the Council, Ibrahim admitted that he too was an aspirant. The term of the incumbent Leader of the Opposition in the Council SR Patil ends on January 5, 2022.

"I spoke to both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar in this regard. I have also received a call from the party high command in Delhi. I will wait for their call before making any move and that will be only after Sankranti in January," he told reporters after meeting Siddaramaiah.

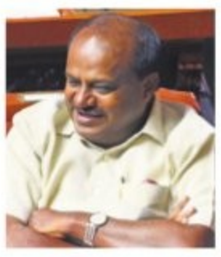
Interestingly, another senior MLC Allum Veerabhadrappa along with KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed also called on Siddaramaiah.There are murmurs in the political corridors that Veerabhadrappa, a senior Veerashaiva Lingayat leader, is also in the race to succeed SR Patil. However, sources reveal that the Congress high command is in favour of another MLC B K Hariprasad.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

When 'Saint' Modi met Pope Francis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling on Pope Francis in Rome last month made big news in India. BJP leaders did not lose the opportunity to make much of it, especially in Kerala, where Christians are in significant numbers. Their counterparts in neighbouring Mangaluru were not far behind. During an informal chat with reporters recently, BJP state spokesperson Capt. Ganesh Karnik took pains to explain the special treatment the PM got during the meeting. Referring to the Pope hugging PM Modi, he said no other political leader of the world was treated in a similar fashion. "Even the US President was allowed to only kiss the Pope's palm, " Karnik said, and added that Modi looked like a saint during the meeting. Sant Tagore to Saint Modi...

HDK, Bommai take time off session



When the winter session starts in Belagavi on Monday, two important leaders will be missing briefly: Former CM H D Kumaraswamy and CM Basavaraj Bommai. As a son, Kumaraswamy cannot miss the event where father H D Deve Gowda's biography 'Furrows in a Field' is to be released in New Delhi. After which he is likely to spend some time in filial bonding, and with author Sugata Srinivasaraju, and finally reach the Assembly on Wednesday. CM Bommai, meanwhile, will put in an appearance for half a day and then fly to Varanasi to accompany PM Narendra Modi in the inauguration of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor. A visit to Ayodhya is also on the cards. So it's an invigorated Bommai who is likely to return to Belagavi. It's also the Modi touch -- the PM has advised him not to worry about any issue, just take on the opposition, both within and without.

It hurts to miss the election bus

Elections to urban local bodies is already whipping up a fever in Gadag and Betageri, as the last polls were held about eight years ago. Aspirants who were denied tickets are using various strategies to show their disappointment. One aspirant sat in protest for more than three hours under the statue of Congress leader K H Patil, on Saturday night. His only visitors were close friends and some media folk. Party leaders, though, clarified that the seat is reserved for a woman candidate. Another contestant declared, loud and clear, that he would contest as an independent and join the party after winning.

Cash back? Depositors turn to Surya

On Sunday, Bengaluru South BJP LS member Tejasvi Surya was going great guns at the Bengaluru Urban Zilla Panchayat, narrating how he had safeguarded the interests of customers of the bankrupt Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamita. It was the virtual event, 'Depositors First' by PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi, for aggrieved customers. Modi handed over cheques to select beneficiaries who had lost their deposits to the bankrupt cooperative. Back at the ZP, Surya claimed to have got the Act amended by raising the issue in Parliament, to ensure depositors get back Rs 5 lakh of their money. He also claimed to have sent five selected depositors to New Delhi to collect their cheques directly from Modi. "I booked the flight tickets and woke them up in the morning, and sent them... They may be having lunch at my residence now," he revealed with pride. He also told the depositors of Raghavendra Bank that they were very lucky, compared to Amanath Bank customers. Later, depositors who had lost over Rs 40 lakh surrounded Surya, Union minister Prahlad Joshi and wanted to know when they would get their money back. The duo made some promises and left the venue. The depositors, though, latched on to Bengaluru Urban DC J Manjunath. "I am just a messenger," the DC told them.

Araga inquires about Group Captain's health

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Home Minister Araga Jnanendra on Sunday visited the Command Hospital in Bengaluru and enquired about the health of Group Captain Varun Singh, the lone survivor in the helicopter crash in the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu that claimed the lives of Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat and others.

The minister, who was accompanied by DGP and IGP Praveen Sood, assured all support and help from the State Government to Group Captain Varun Singh.

"The Home Minister prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured, assured all support and help from the state government," the minister's office said in a statement. Singh was shifted from Wellington in Tamil Nadu to Command Hospital on Thursday.

MAKING A COMEBACK

Covid crisis: Tea stall owner looks to revive biz at Khanapur station

TUSHAR A MAJUKAR@ Belagavi

ABOUT 79 years ago, before India gained Independence, the Tinekar family set up a small tea canteen at the Khanapur Railway Station, and it slowly grew into the mainstay for their economic survival.

Established in 1942, the canteen thrived for many decades until fate struck two blows, in the form of track doubling and the Covid-19 pandemic. Business crashed when trains stopped plying and the once-bustling station of Khanapur fell silent. It spelt ruin for the Tinekar family, three generations of which have run the canteen and were dependent on the tea and vada-pav business.

"It has been a struggle for the past 24 months," says Deepak Tinekar (38). "There were no customers and and we were unable to sustain business during these months." Paying rent became impossible, and as the dues piled up to Rs 1.57 lakh, the Railways sealed the canteen. Tinekar approached the authorities but failed to convince them to treat his case with leniency. He says he is willing to pay rental dues and licence fee, but can only do so in instalments.

The sealed canteen of Deepak Tinekar at Khanapur Railway Station

Twelve trains once plied through Khanapur station, but now the number is just six, and even those trains are irregular. "Business has picked up after trains became regular, and I am sure I can do well again," says Tinekar. With little experience in any other line of work, Tinekar has now set up a roadside tea stall, but is unable to do good business. "I cannot even look for any other job," he says.

Tinekar has urged the Railway authorities to reconsider his case on a humanitarian basis, as the pandemic is a global financial crisis. He has already approached the Divisional Commercial Manager and other officials. However, the Railway authorities have clarified that all those doing business on the station premises have to abide by the rules. Unless all dues are cleared, they will not be allowed to run their stalls. Many of the businessmen have paid their dues and Tinekar should do likewise, they say.

British helped start canteen

Late Waman Venkatesh Tinekar, grandfather of Deepak, was a noted cook during British rule and served British officials for 13 years at Castlerock in Uttara Kannada. In appreciation of his service, they helped him establish a canteen at Khanapur railway station, recalled Deepak Tinekar.

B'LURU DEPOSITORS DON'T GET CHANCE TO INTERACT WITH PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A large number of customers from bankrupt cooperative banks were disappointed as they were not given an opportunity, as scheduled, to interact with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 'Depositors' First: Guaranteed time-bound payment up to Rs 5 lakh' programme held virtually across the country on Sunday.

At the Bengaluru event, held at the Urban Zilla Panchayat auditorium, nearly 100 aggrieved customers of Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha gathered around Union Minister Prahlad Joshi and MP Tejasvi Surya and demanded the return of their entire deposits.

"I have lost over Rs 40 lakh and getting Rs 5 lakh is nothing," remarked a customer, Pratap. Another depositor Sheshagiri Rao said of Rs 9 lakh he had in a joint account with his wife Bhavani and they got Rs 5 lakh. He wanted the rest of the money as the family is in distress.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi hands over a cheque to a beneficiary at 'Depositors' First: Guaranteed time-bound payment up to Rs 5 lakh' event in Bengaluru

"The accused have gone scot-free. They should be caught and given stringent punishment," the customers urged the two leaders.

Deputy Commissioner J Manjunath explained to them that the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Act was amended to increase the deposit insurance cover from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. The DICGC released the first installment of claims on November 29, 2021 as intermediary relief.

After the PM's video address, the audience felt disillusioned as an interaction with the PM that was scheduled got cancelled. Lead bank officials handed over Rs 5 lakh cheques to select beneficiaries. Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha member PC Mohan and lead bank-Canara Bank manager Subba Naik were present. Customers of The Mudhol Co-operative Bank in Bagalakote, Millath Co-operative Bank at Davanagere and Chitradurga and Deccan Urban Cooperative Bank at Vijayapura also took part in the virtual event.

A 19-year-old biker who was critically injured in an accident, while attempting to escape from traffic policemen, succumbed to his injuries in Bengaluru on Sunday morning. The incident, which also injured a home guard, occurred at Attiguppe on Thursday.

First Omicron case detected in Kerala

39-year-old man returned to Kochi from UK on Dec 6, developed symptoms next day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

THE state reported the first Omicron case on Sunday. The variant was detected in a 39-year-old man in Ernakulam who landed at Kochi airport on December 6, said Health Minister Veena George. He had returned from the United Kingdom via Abu Dhabi.

"His wife and mother-in-law have also been found to be Covid positive. All of them have been shifted to isolation wards. Their health condition is satisfactory," said the minister. She urged people to maintain extreme caution in the wake of the development.

The person tested negative on arrival, but he developed symptoms on the second day and a retest confirmed the presence of Covid. His samples were later sent for genetic sequencing at Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) in Thiruvananthapuram and another lab in Delhi. The results confirming the presence of Omicron variant came on Sunday.

"He came on an Etihad flight (EY 280) carrying 149 passengers. All those who sat near him in the flight (seat numbers 26 to 32) have been included in the high-risk category and they have been asked to undergo Covid testing on Monday," said Veena. The driver who came to pick the person up from the airport is also under observation. She said the state has followed the Centre's guidelines and all arrangement have been put in place to deal with the situation.

Health workers collect swab samples at KSRTC bus stand in Bengaluru on Sunday| EXPRESS

Altogether 38 Omicron cases have been detected in the country – in Rajasthan, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chandigarh and Andhra Pradesh – since December 2.

The state has started screening international passengers based on the Centre's guidelines from November 30. People coming from high-risk countries are being tested on arrival. Those turning negative in the RT-PCR test will have to undergo seven-day home quarantine. It will be followed by a retest on the eighth day. Even if they get a negative result in the retest, the person has to undergo self-monitoring for another seven days.

His wife and mother-in-law have also been found to be Covid positive. All of them have been shifted to isolation wards

Health Minister Veena George

AP man returns from Ireland, tests +ve

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

ANDHRA Pradesh reported its first Omicron positive case on Sunday, with Genome Sequencing done at CCMB, Hyderabad confirming the results. A 34-year-old international traveller, who came from Ireland to Vizianagaram district tested positive for the new variant of Covid-19.

However, in the re-test (RT-PCR) conducted on Dec 11, he tested negative for COVID19, indicating that he has recovered. But as a precautionary measure, he is kept under observation

According to Dr Hymavathi, director, public health department, the patient came from Ireland to Mumbai Airport, was tested and found negative for COVID-19 RT-PCR Test. He was allowed to travel and came to Visakhapatnam on November 27.

On conducting a retest (RT-PCR) at Vizianagaram, he tested positive for COVID-19. "However, today, he does not have any symptoms and looks hale and healthy. He was re-tested (RT-PCR) on December 11 and tested negative for COVID-19. There are no other Omicron cases in the state," she told TNIE.

Health department, collected his samples and sent them for a test on December 4. Next day, his result came positive, he has been in home isolation since.

This is the first case of Omicron identified in the state. So far a total of 15 Foreign Travellers were found positive for COVID-19 in RT PCR tests conducted. Out of 10 samples,only one has been confirmed and results of the remaining five samples are awaited.

The last rites of Lance Naik B Sai Teja, who was killed in the helicopter crash, were performed in Chittoor district on Sunday | EXPRESS

Lance Naik laid to rest with full military honours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chittoor

THE last rites of Lance Naik B Sai Teja were performed with full military honours at his native Eguva Regada in Kurbalakota mandal of Chittoor on Sunday. The braveheart was among the 13 killed, including India's Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu's Coonoor last Wednesday.

Teja's mortal remains, which reached the district in the early hours of Sunday, were laid to rest amid chants of 'Jai Jawan' by thousands who gathered to pay their last respects to the soldier.

The funeral arrangements were done under the watch of Army officials. A team gave the guard of honour to the Lance Naik. The national flag which draped the bier was handed over to his wife Shyamala before the burial.

Teja's family broke down at the funeral attended by scores of people who arrived to pay their respects. His father B Mohan was inconsolable, and Shyamala collapsed on seeing the coffin. The Lance Naik's last rites were performed by his brother Mahesh who carried Teja's five-year-old son.

After reaching Chittoor, Sai Teja's body was received at Madanapalle.

As the military and police personnel accompanied the soldier's coffin through Madanapalle to Eguva Regada, people stood at roadsides holding the tricolour and showered flowers on the ambulance. Chittoor SP S Senthil Kumar, Tirupati Urban SP Ch Venkata Appala Naidu, Joint Collector Dr Venkateswar and others paid floral tributes to the Lance Naik at the funeral.

Born in 1994 in a farmers' family, Sai Teja fulfilled his dream when he was selected for the Army Service Corps in 2013 Following his basic military training, Teja completed an advanced physical training course from AIPT, Pune.

Later, Teja decided to serve in the Parachute Regiment and opted for the elite special forces unit. Teja got many promotions within a short period and joined as the SPO of General Bipin Rawat seven months ago.

YouTube channel under scanner for chopper video

KIRUBAKARAN R @Coimbatore

A PRIVATE college in Coimbatore has lodged a complaint with city police against a Kerala-based YouTube channel for allegedly airing fake news following the death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat. The channel posted a three-minute video showing students of a particular community studying in colleges in Nilgiris and Coimbatore and alleged they were celebrating the death of General Rawat. As the video went viral, police conducted an investigation in the college. Sources said inquiries revealed that the video was taken on December 7, a day before the crash.

"The video is from our students' fresher's day that was held by hostellers the day before the sad news," the college management clarified. "Rumours are being spread by some online channels to portray our students in bad light and also to tarnish the college reputation . Upon hearing about the death of General Rawat and 12 others, we organised a homage service on December 9," the college stated in a media release. Police sources confirmed that the YouTube channel had aired a video of the freshers' day, and initiated an investigation against the channel with support from Kerala police. "A right-wing supported YouTube channel posted fake news targeting students of a particular community. It used a video that was taken on different occasions in the college premises near Kuniyamuthur. If we do not approach it legally, the practice will continue and it would create unnecessary tension," said a senior police officer.

Hosp staffer held for stealing gold chain

ENS @Bengaluru

THE Byadarahalli police have arrested a 27-year-old staffer of a private hospital for stealing a gold chain from an elderly woman patient, who was admitted for Covid treatment.

The accused has been identified as Imtiyaz, who hails from Chitradurga. The accused, who resides in Hesaraghatta, was working in the ICU.

A senior police officer said a complaint was filed by the woman's family members in April this year. The investigation led to the discovery of Imtiyaz's role in the theft. Soon after the crime, he left his job and went absconding. The police were tracking his movements and caught him on Saturday.

He confessed that he was waiting for the woman to sleep after taking an injection. He then removed the 70-grams chain worth Rs 3 lakh from her neck, and sold it to a relative for Rs 2.38 lakh. The police recovered the valuables based on his information.

JOY TO THE WORLD

With Christmas round the corner, people throng Broadway to shop for the festival in Chennai on Sunday | DEBADATTA MALLICK

EXPRESS READ

Lab technician booked for post against late CDS Bipin Rawat

Bengaluru: Vidhana Soudha police on Saturday arrested a 40-year-old lab technician for posting derogatory remarks on the death of CDS General Bipin Rawat on Facebook. Based on a complaint filed by Deepa Ravi Kumar, the PSI with the social media unit at the Police Commissioner's office, arrested Vasanth Kumar, who works at a private hospital. **ENS**

Former GP member, lover hacked to death in Chandapura

Bengaluru: A former GP member and his lover were hacked to death by unidentified miscreants in Chandapura on Saturday evening. The police suspect an illicit affair to be the motive behind the double-murder. The deceased has been identified as Narayana Swamy (41) and his lover Kavya (32). **ENS**

'Clearing encroachments not easy'

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

CLEARING encroachments is part of regular work for the forest department, and is a slow process. It can be a particularly painstaking exercise if politicians and influential people are involved, say officials.

According to a report on forest land encroachment, prepared by the forest department, and dated April 30, 2021, of the 1,12,346.78 acres of encroached land, 3,621.002 acres has been vacated and 1,08,725.78 acres are pending. Of the 83,323 cases filed, 2,034 cases are cleared and 81,289 cases are pending, and are related to land measuring less than three acres. In

case of plots measuring over three acres, the department had listed 23,053 cases on encroachments spread across 88,479.02 acres of which 19,737 cases are pending for 69,272.15 acres. Also, 3,289 cases are pending pertaining to 19,207 acres of land. "In total, of the identified 2.20 lakh acres of encroachment identified by the forest department in 2012 of the over one crore acres of forest land with the department, the area still encroached is 1,77,997.93 acres. Most of the encroached area is in Shivamogga circle.The most problems faced in clearing encroachments is in this region, followed by Madikeri," a senior forest department official seeking anonymity said.

In 2012, on High Court directions, the forest department prepared a report and submitted it showing the area of encroachment.

Congress bid to forge oppn alliance may rattle BJP in Goa

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @Belagavi

THE ruling BJP in Goa, which has been able to bolster its position ahead of the assembly elections in the coastal state early next year, will have a challenging task on hand with the Congress trying to forge an alliance of opposition parties.

The BJP, which formed the government in 2017 by roping in legislators from other parties, was able to consolidate its position in the past three years, and several leaders are confident that the party will retain power. The opposition Congress, though, has been in a shambles in Goa, despite emerging as the single largest party in the last assembly elections. Ever since the exodus of its legislators to the BJP in 2019, the party has been struggling to marshal its forces. Senior Congress leader and former Goa Chief Minister Digambar Kamat told TNIE that the party was working out strategies to take all regional and opposition parties into confidence. The Congress has already had tied up with Goa Forward Party, which has three MLAs in the 40-member assembly, and is keen to join hands with other parties – Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party. Kamat, who was in New Delhi to meet party leaders on Saturday, said attempts were on to forge an alliance with regional parties.

According to senior journalist Kishore Naik Gaonkar from Goa, the Congress will not be able to make any impact unless it allies with the TMC, AAP, GFP, MGP, to take on the BJP. "The Congress has no potential leader to be projected as CM candidate, nor has it been able to ensure unity in the Goa Congress," he adds. Former CM Pratapsingh Rane is the only leader with the potential to rebuild the Congress, which is still in a state of confusion and unable to set its house in order, said Gaonkar. A section of Congress leaders feel that national leaders of the Congress, TMC and AAP should hold talks at the highest level to forge a grand alliance ahead of the polls. According to sources, the BJP will certainly win the polls if the Congress, TMC and AAP contest elections separately, as both the TMC and AAP will eat into the Congress' traditional vote share in most of the 40 assembly segments.

Political analysts feel the BJP is expected to field "winnable'' candidates in most of the constituencies and may drop many sitting legislators this time.

The party was working out strategies to take all regional and opposition parties into confidence. Congress has already had tied up with Goa Forward Party

Chief Minister Digambar Kamat

Cong has no potential leader to be projected as CM candidate, nor has it been able to ensure unity

Kishore Naik Gaonkar, senior journalist

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Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property (Appendix -IV-A)

To, 1) Mr. Dinesh S/o Hiralal, C/o Jyothi Hardware & Ceramics, No.104/1, Shop No. 1-2, Opposite Purvankara Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Banglore-560064.
2) Mrs Champa, No.44, 3rd Cross, Muneshwara Layout, Attur Post, Bangalore-560064.
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assests Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable and movable properties mortgaged/charged to the **Bank of Maharashtra,** the **Physical Possession** of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Bank of Maharashtra,** will be sold on **"As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is"** basis on **30/12/2021 from 01:00 PM to 05.00 PM,** for recovery of the balance due to the **Bank of Maharashtra** from the Borrowers(s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovabel property and encoumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under, **EMD to be deposited by 05:00 pm on 29/12/2021.** Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under:

Outstanding Balance as on: Housing Loan-Acc No.60159241959-Rs.28,06,161/-, CC Loan-Acc No-60033025758-Rs.23,76,204/-, Car Loan-Acc No.60267929123-Rs.13,69,249/- Total O/s- Rs.65,51,614/- plus interest accrued there upon and the expenses there to, till the date of realization.

Date & Time of inspection of the property: Property/Assets can be inspected on from **11/12/2021 to 29/12/2021 between 11.00 am to 4.00 pm** and on any other date at the discretion of Authorized Officer with prior appointment. For prior appointment please contact **Mrs. Anjana Singh, Contact No: 080509-51640, Contact No: 080-28096386** (Landline).

Last date for submission of EMD: 29/12/2021 till 05:00 PM

Date & Time of e-Auction: 24/11/2021 from 1.00 p.m. to 05.00 p.m. with auto extension for 5 minutes in case bid is placed within 5 minutes.

Known encumbrances: Nill

Description of Property proposed for sale through e-auction:
All the piece and parcel of Residential Apartment having an area admeasuring 82.774 Sq.metres comprised in Flat No.78/5, S-HIG, Block No.5, Third Floor, 5th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore -560064 in the name of **Mr. Dinesh** and the same is **bounded as under: To the East:** Open space, **To the West:** Stairs & Flat No.79, **To the North:** Flat No.77, **To the South:** Open Space & Block No.4.

Reserve Price(Rs in actuals)**: Rs.33,00,000/-**
EMD(Rs in actuals)**: Rs.3,30,000/- Bid increase**(Rs in actuals)**: Rs.50,000/-**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link **"https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in/propsale.asp"** provided in the Bank's website and also **E-Bikray portal(www.ibapi.in)**

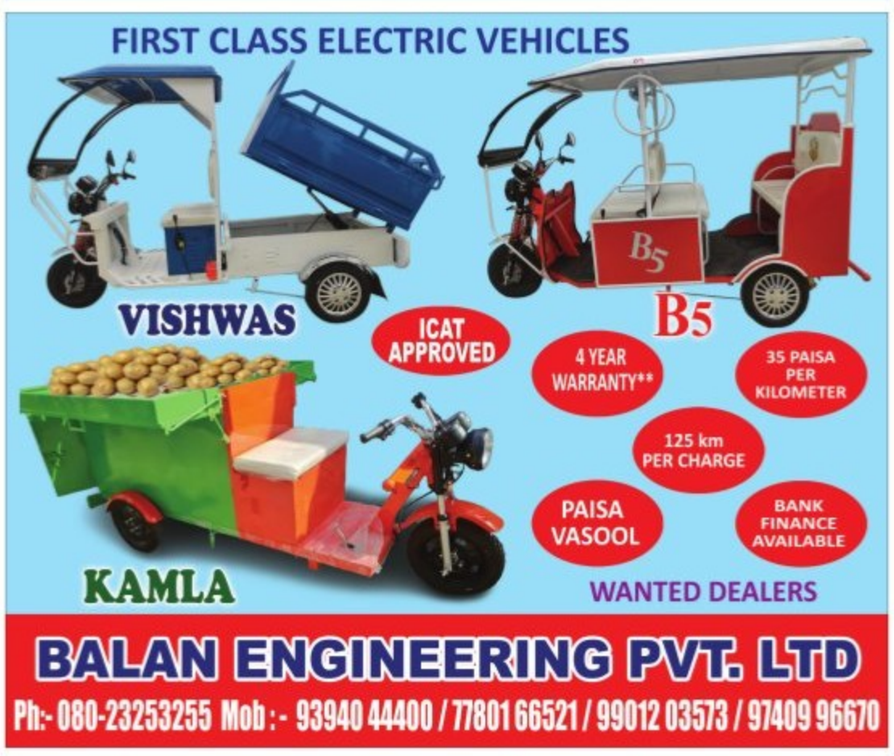
STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Please treat this also as a notice under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s), Mortgagor(s) of the secured debt mentioned above regarding holding the sale on the above mentioned date and time if their outstanding dues mentioned above are not paid in full.

Date: 10/12/2021
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Bank of Maharashtra

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE
EXPRESS CONNECTS



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EDITORIAL

> "The (Pew Research Center 2021) survey finds that most people—including most members of 'lower castes'—say there is not a lot of caste discrimination in India. ... People in all six major religious groups overwhelmingly say they are very free to practise their faiths
>
> Jonathan Evans, Neha Sahgal

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

LISTEN TO GUV, FIX ROT IN KERALA'S UNIVERSITIES

When the University of Travancore was established in 1937, the then king's first choice for the post of vice-chancellor was the legendary scientist Albert Einstein. Diwan Sir C P Ramaswamy Aiyar reached out to Einstein and offered him a monthly salary of ₹6,000 for the post. Though Einstein politely declined it, the episode is testimony to the regard the rulers then had for the position and the institution. In this context, the recent letter by an anguished Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan to CM Pinarayi Vijayan, expressing his willingness to relinquish the chancellorship of universities, needs to be viewed as a rare act of earnestness. Khan, who seems to be fed up with political interference in the affairs of universities, was angered by the insistence of the CM's office to reappoint Kannur University V-C Gopinath Ravindran. The governor said he signed the order extending the V-C's term with much reluctance. The alleged conspiracy by the LDF government to deny him the right to pick the new V-C for Sanskrit University by handing him a single name has also upset the governor.

The degradation of higher education in Kerala has a lot to do with political interventions, especially in state-run universities. University syndicates and senates are packed with politicians and their cronies, who play dirty to enforce political agendas, from appointments to syllabus revision. It may be recalled that the appointments of two V-Cs of MG University were nullified by the Kerala HC a few years ago as both didn't possess the required qualification. To cleanse the higher education sector and ensure merit in appointments, the UGC has introduced a set of guidelines. The governor, as chancellor of universities, wants these norms followed strictly. The government's effort to dilute merit by providing jobs to relatives of leaders and party sympathisers is at the heart of the latest tussle. The concerns raised by the governor are genuine and should be taken as a warning to fix the rot in institutions of higher learning. The priority should be to develop universities as centres of excellence, not turn them into political tools and a source of employment for politicians, their families and supporters. The government must mend its ways and stop unnecessary meddling in the functioning of universities.

PREPARING SCHOOL EDU FOR OMICRON

The worrying spate of Covid-19 clusters in educational institutions across Karnataka, coupled with a surprise appearance of the Omicron variant early on—the first-ever cases in India were reported in Bengaluru—has left the government in a dilemma: a choice between children's health and their education. Should the government shut down schools and colleges and risk another zero year, or should it treat the clusters on a case-to-case basis and plough on, hoping for the best? Fortunately, the rash of cases have proved to be of a mild variety, but these are uncertain times and the health authorities are dealing with a rapidly mutating virus.

As expected, there is a groundswell of opposition among parents, who feel unvaccinated kids are being exposed to the virus. Educationists, though, are advocating continuation of offline classes, saying children can ill-afford another disruption. Health experts, too, feel it could lead to better immunity among kids. The 20-month closure has already taken its toll on learning and created a divide in society—while private schools have the wherewithal to move back to online classes and minimise loss of learning, government school students have ended up as the biggest losers. Especially as a paediatric vaccine is nowhere near implementation.

While it is hoped that the Omicron variant could tail out the pandemic, experts say it is prudent to be prepared for a long-drawn battle against the virus. If the coming year does bring in the third wave, as it has across Europe and other regions of the world, the government should ensure that the education sector is not too hard-hit. It should foresee the pitfalls and adopt a two-pronged approach to keep the situation as stable and normal as possible: Push ahead with vaccination and booster doses for adults, besides early implementation of paediatric inoculation, and simultaneously explore inclusive digital learning solutions for government schools so that underprivileged students do not get left by the wayside.

When a survey throws up numbers that don't tally with our intuitive anecdotal perceptions, we instantly reject it. 'I spoke to some people and they don't believe this' is sufficient to do so

NFHS & WHY SURVEYS ARE BETTER THAN ASKING A CAB DRIVER

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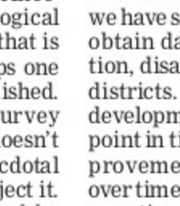
Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM

AMIT BANDRE

Robert Aumann is a famous economist, usually described as a mathematical economist. He won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics in 2005. Many years ago, I attended one of Bob Aumann's seminars. He remarked, "Life as a mathematical economist is difficult. If mathematics comes up with a counter-intuitive result, people feel the maths must be wrong. If mathematics comes up with an intuitive result, people ask, why did you need fancy mathematics for what is obvious?" Particularly on the first part of the statement, I find a similarity in the way people react to data and statistics. Data is the plural of datum. It means something that is "given". In Sanskrit and many Indian languages, we would say "*datta*". I once heard a speaker seriously suggest that data is the plural of anecdote. That's not true. Anecdote has a different etymological root and means something that is not to be published. Perhaps one might say—not fit to be published. Yet, when a census or a survey throws up numbers, and it doesn't tally with our intuitive anecdotal perceptions, we instantly reject it. "I spoke to a cab driver and he doesn't believe this," is sufficient to immediately reject a proposition. Any sample survey, which isn't complete enumeration, unlike a census, can certainly be subjected to a critique on grounds of sample size and design. But any sample size will typically be preferable to a cab driver, with a sample size of one.

The immediate trigger for this comment is National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5. The survey has been going on since 1992–93, when NFHS-1 was held. NFHS-5 was held in two phases, June 2019 to January 2020 and January 2020 to April 2021. (Some states/Union territories were covered in Phase-I, others in Phase-II.) NFHS-5 covered 6,36,699 households. This sample size is large. Therefore, even though a sample, by definition, is not the same as the population, the size is large enough to eliminate biases caused by size. NFHS isn't the equivalent of a cab driver response. Why do we have something like NFHS? To obtain data on health and nutrition, disaggregated to the level of districts. We want to take stock of developmental targets at a single point in time and wish to track improvements (or deterioration) over time. To gauge improvements over time, ideally, we should have what statisticians and economists call a panel. In a panel, across time, questions are asked to the same individuals/households. For something like NFHS, that's not possible. In addition, for NFHS-5, compared to NFHS-4 (2015–16), additional questions have been asked. For those questions, gauging improvements over time is naturally impossible. NFHS-5 occurred in the midst of the Covid pandemic. What does such an exogenous shock do? Does it make matters worse? We don't know.

India is a large and heterogeneous country and there will be differences between states and differences between districts within them. Subject to this, at an all-India level, it is impossible to dispute improvements between 2015–16 and 2019–21. School attendance, literacy, internet usage, sex ratio, birth and death registration, households with improved drinking water, improved sanitation and clean fuel, insurance, age at marriage, infant and child mortality rates, maternal and child health, institutional delivery, vaccination—you take your pick. Data, as opposed to anecdotes, show a clear improvement in these social sector indicators and some (Ayushman Bharat, maternal health through Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan) were yet to fully kick in when the NFHS-5 questions were asked. Articulated in a different way, this is what the Economic Survey sought to capture by constructing and measuring improvements in a Bare Necessities Index. In passing, the total fertility rate has declined to 2, a shade below the replacement level of 2.1. In simple terms, the demographic dividend will soon be over.

> School attendance, literacy, internet usage, sex ratio, infant and child mortality rates, households with improved drinking water and sanitation—take your pick, all have improved. But everything is not unmitigated good news

Everything is not unmitigated good news. There are under-5 children who are stunted (measured as height), wasted (measured as weight), severely wasted and under-weight. Except for severely wasted (where the decimal point difference is marginal), it's improving over time, but not fast enough. And we now have an additional problem of over-weight under-5 children and obese men and women, all relatively urban phenomena. If health indicators are improving, it is not obvious why anaemia should increase, both among children and adults. There won't be satisfactory answers if one looks only at all-India figures. One has to take it down to the level of states and districts. Take Gujarat as an example. Children aged 6–59 months who were anaemic were 62.6% of the child population in 2015–16, but 79.7% in 2019–21. For women aged 15–19 years, the deterioration was from 56.5% to 69.0%. It's not just the deterioration, but its scale. In West Bengal, the deterioration for children aged 6–59 months was from 54.2% to 69.0% and for women aged 15-19 years, it was from 62.2% to 70.8%, both alarming drops again. I have chosen two different states for purposes of contrast and both exhibit this sharp deterioration in anaemia. One shouldn't accept the good news from NFHS-5 and reject the bad on grounds of sample design or methodology. Logically, that's not acceptable. We know reasons for the prevalence of anaemia—not enough iron, folic acid, Vitamin B-12 and so on. But over time, why has it become worse in the last four years? Could subsidised rice and wheat, or penetration of packaged foods have something to do with it? I have no idea what the answer is. But we need one.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @bibekdebroy)

ALIYA RAMA RAYA, A PATRON OF ART AND LITERATURE

SRINIVAS SISTLA

Associate professor, Department of Fine Arts, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

Rama Raja of the Aravidu family, also known as the Narapati dynasty, married Tirumalamba, the eldest daughter of Krishna Deva Raya (r. 1509–1529) of the Vijayanagara Empire, and hence, he came to be called as Aliya Rama Raya; for, *aliya* in Kannada means son-in-law. Rama Raja came to the limelight when he was in the service of Quli Qutbul-Mulk, the founder of the Qutb Shahi dynasty of Golkonda. Rama Raja brought some of the Vijayanagara territories into the fold of the Golkonda Kingdom and so, as a reward, the Shah had allotted a portion of the region to Rama Raja. Historian P Sree Rama Sharma had mentioned that he ruled the jagir of Mast-Sonti, though I have not been able to trace its present location. Three years later, Rama Raja was defeated by the Bijapur army and hence, was terminated from the service of Golkonda. Later, he became a loyal subordinate of his father-in-law. Rama Raja's younger brother, Tirumala Raya, who became the first king of the Vijayanagara Empire from the Aravidu dynasty, married Vengalamba, the second daughter of Krishna Deva Raya.

A copper-plate grant of Tirumala Raya (r. 1565–72) says that Krishna Raya had reinstalled the *moolamurti* (chief sacred image) of God Krishna in a temple at Holalkere in what is now Chitradurga district, Karnataka. The image was earlier concealed in the earth when the Delhi Sultan's army had invaded the region. After the restoration, according to the grant, Aliya Rama Raja had constructed a *mantapa* (pillared pavilion) in the temple. Incidentally, the sacred image in the sanctum sanctorum is in the typical Hoysala style of carving of the earlier period, whereas the pillared hall in front of the temple reflects all the characteristic features of Vijayanagara architecture and sculpture. The pillars contain many panels that show various divinities including Rama, Siva, Hanuman, Padma Nidhi, Sankha Nidhi and so on. A pair of panels on two adjacent pillars show two individuals, a male and a female, facing each other and clad in the typical Vijayanagara royal dress. Since the pavilion was built by Aliya Rama Raja, in my opinion, the two figures might indeed be that of him and his wife, Tirumalamba.

Many Vijayanagara kings of the Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva and Aravidu dynasties had patronised poets and also built notable edifices in and around the capital and elsewhere in the vast empire. Aliya Rama Raja's wife, Tirumalamba, also known as Mohanangi, wrote the *Mareechi Parinayamu*, a long poem in Telugu, though only parts of the work were published. Her father, Krishna Raya, is still remembered as a great patron of the *Astha-diggajas*, the eight earth-bearing elephant-like poets. Following the same tradition, Aliya Rama Raja had also patronised many poets, including Bhattu Murti, who became famous by name Rama Raja Bhushanudu, after his patron. He wrote the *Kaavyaalankaara Sangrahamu* and dedicated it to Rama Raja's nephew, Narasa Raja, who was the chief of Peddamudiyam, an ancient historic village in what is now Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh. Later, the poet wrote a long poem in Telugu, the *Vasu Charitra*, and dedicated it to Tirumala Raya.

The *Rama-raajiyamu* or *Narapati-vijayamu* (c. 1560), a poem in Telugu by Andugula Venkayya, was written at the behest of Aliya Rama Raja.The poem narrates the ancestral history of Rama Raja, starting from (God) Narayana. The earliest known historical ancestor of Rama Raja was Bijjala II (r. 1130–67), the king of Kalyana (Basavakalyan) in Bidar district, Karnataka. It seems likely that Rama Raya's desire to gain control over his ancestral hometown, Kalyana, had brought forth his fatal end.

The Sultans of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Bidar and Golkonda of the Deccan were fighting among themselves to gain control over Kalyana, most likely because of its past historical importance. In 1562–63, Hussain Nizam Shah of Ahmednagar had offered to give his daughter, Bibi Jamali, in marriage to Ibrahim Qutb Shah of Golkonda. It was agreed by both that the marriage should be held at Kalyana, which was then under the control of Adil Shah of Bijapur, who took it earlier from the Sultan of Bidar. There were a series of battles, and eventually, in c. 1564, the four Sultans of Deccan joined hands and fought against the Vijayanagara army led by Rama Raya. On 23 January 1565, Rama Raya was beheaded in the battle of Talikota, which is about 85 kilometres from Bijapur, Karnataka. A double-page painting of the *Tarif-i Husain Shahi* of Aftabi shows the battle and the beheading of Rama Raya. The head of Rama Raya in stone, in the Bijapur Museum, contains all the characteristic features of the way he was viewed by his enemies.

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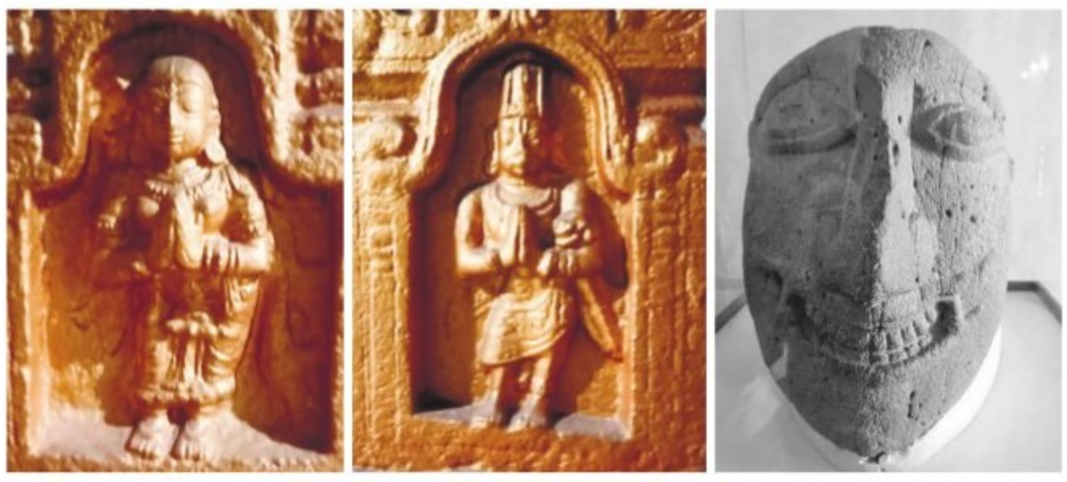
(Left, Centre) Portrait figures in the Holalkere Krishna temple in Chitradurga district in Karnataka, which are likely to be those of Tirumalamba, Krishna Deva Raya's daughter, and her husband Aliya Rama Raya; (Right) Head of Aliya Rama Raya, Bijapur Museum

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Forced to go slow

This is with reference to the article *Govt goes slow on legislative biz after farm bills volte-face* (Dec 12). The government soft-pedalling the legislative process comes as no surprise as its capitulation to the farmers' unions left it with plenty of egg on its face. Disallowing debates in the Houses of Parliament and refusal to take stakeholders into confidence before passing legislations have been a marked characteristic of the current ruling dispensation. The resilience of the farmers and their tenacity to hold on to their agitation for over a year forced the government to kowtow to them and accept their demands.
CV Aravind, Bengaluru

Not good news

The repeal of farm laws is no doubt a volte-face but not avoidable in a vibrant democracy. The PM has clearly outlined that national interest accounts for the repeal. The slow passage of bills is not really good news. Healthy functioning of Parliament with strong debates without repeated boycotts is the only solution.
K Chandrasekaran, Chennai

Suggest safeguards

One fails to understand the hullabaloo against the proposed anti-conversion legislation that is to be presented in the Karnataka Assembly. This is not the first such bill nor is it unique to Karnataka. Anti-conversion laws are in place in a number of states and have not resulted in major issues. It would be more appropriate for the opposition to participate in the discussions on the Bill in the Assembly and suggest suitable safeguards against misuse of its provisions.
R Sriramprasad, Bengaluru

A noble tradition

Vijay Kumar of Nellore and his family have been feeding stray animals for years, spending at least ₹500 daily. It's exemplary by any standards, more so as he has carried forward the noble practice begun by his father 45 years ago (*Come what may, nothing can deter this family from feeding the strays*, Dec 12).
K Nehru Patnaik, Visakhapatnam

K-Rail & the environment

It was amusing to note that Kerala CM had sought the personal intervention of PM for the clearance of the K-Rail project. The CM appears to be hell-bent on implementing it with utter disregard to all the issues of concern. For an ecologically fragile state with the recent experience of floods, ignoring the concerns and implementing the project at any cost will prove disastrous in the long run. One hopes that all queries are addressed and not brushed aside. The project implementation should not be to satisfy the ego of an individual and must only go ahead after clearances from statutory authorities.
R Ramadas, Palakkad

Irresponsible all around

The Union Home Ministry's October notification unilaterally extending the jurisdiction of the BSF deployed in West Bengal, Assam and Punjab from 15 to 50 km from the international borders is clearly in breach of the spirit of federalism. But the West Bengal CM instruction to her police officials not to allow the BSF personnel to operate within the extended jurisdiction is an equally irresponsible act. It is worthwhile recalling that in 2012, Modi as Gujarat CM in a letter to the then PM had opposed the Centre's proposed move of amending the BSF Act to give wide powers to the force to search and arrest.
S K Choudhury, Bengaluru

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sharad Pawar @PawarSpeaks
We need to make conclusions about certain things. The party may be small, have limited no. of workers, but committed workers are hallmarks of the NCP

Devendra Fadnavis @Dev_Fadnavis
Will there be a system called govt or not in the state? Millions of students have been hit again. If you can't get a job, at least don't make fun of them

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Ranjan "Clean chit" Gogoi says he goes to RS when "he feels like it". Wonder if he cosied up to the Supreme Court staffer because he felt like it too

NCP exhorts Maharashtrians to elevate Pawar as PM

Party leader Kohle says if 26 MPs from Gujarat can make Modi Prime Minister, then why cannot 48 MPs from Maharashtra do the same

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) rank and file vouched to work together on Sunday to elevate Sharad Pawar on to the throne of New Delhi, with one party leader exhorting the people of Maharashtra to think about its prospect.

On the 81st birthday of Pawar, party's Lok Sabha MP Amol Kohle said that if the 26 MPs from Gujarat can make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister, then why not 48 MPs from Maharashtra do the same for the veteran leader. "Despite Maharashtra having the second largest MPs after Uttar Pradesh, no one became the Prime Minister from our state. We, Maharashtrians, need to introspect it," Kohle said.

"Pawar is a simple and grounded man, connected to people even at this advanced age. Pawar *saheb* neither needs a ₹5 lakh suit to wear nor expensive mushroom to eat. We need to work hard to make Sharad Pawar India's prime minister," Kohle said.

Highlighting the over four decade-long political career of Pawar, Khole said the Maratha leader has to his credit many first especially when it came to women empowerment. "He allowed women reservations in local body elections. He also allowed the entry of women in defence services."

Sharad Pawar speaks at an event on his birthday in Mumbai on Sunday | TWITTER

"Sharad Pawar's political and administrative experience is vast. After the earthquake (in Bhuj), erstwhile prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee praised his work."

Meanwhile, NCP chief Jayant Patil said that there exists an ideological crisis in India. "There is an ideological fight in India and this can be won ideologically alone. Students and youth in the state should join the NCP and take its progressive thought to every nook and corner of the country."

On his part, Pawar appealed to his party workers to adapt to the changing socio-political scenario in the country.

"The NCP may be a small party with limited cadre, but its uniqueness is that its workers are committed to take along all the deprived sections of society," he said.

"If members of a section of the society feel they can't lead a dignified life, we should facilitate that," he said. "Workers of the NCP and other parties need to adapt to the changing socio-political scenario."

Gujarat Cong banks on youth power

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

NEWLY-APPOINTED Gujarat Congress chief **Jagdish Thakor** has announced the party will adopt a "one booth five youth" formula to manage grassroots electioneering. By deploying two presidents in a booth in major cities for the 2022 assembly polls, the party looks to seal its fate in 125 seats under the formula.

Jagdish Thakor, a former MP and face of the OBC community in northern Gujarat, is known for his eloquence. The two-time MLA of Dehgam assembly seat made his Lok Sabha debut in 2009 after his win in the Patan constituency.

While Congress has proven weak at booth-level, Jagdish Thakor's plans to strengthen the booth-level operations by adopting the "one booth five youth" formula has breathed life into the party.

According to the state party chief, "We are discussing about the big cities to adopt a formula of two presidents instead of one. Moreover, the organisation will only include people who are know to work. Local favourites will get ticket to contest, while it ground-level responsibilities will be handed over to party men who are closer to the local voter. Many such policies and plans are being devised by the Congress which will be seen in the 2022 assembly election."

Congress' had been in oblivion for the last 27 years in the state. The entry of the new state president, however, has made way for some welcome changes. While factionalism seems long gone, social equations suggest Jagdish Thakor is in action mode. Notably, at a recent meeting of senior Congress leaders, it was decided that party's interest should be paramount for all leaders. The new roadmap for the 2022 elections gets a target of winning 125 seats in the state.

"There is an estimated 20-25 seats in cities like Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, and Rajkot, where Congress has had a slew of upsets. We will announce candidates early this time with hopes of winning in these defeated seats. Congress has also prepared a calendar of programmes which will go on till the end of the year. In the coming days, Congress will come to the fore with the people's issues and plans to agitate till they are resolved," Thakor said.

WORRYING SIGN

Indian Ocean witnesses great power rivalry: Navy

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

WHILE the Indian Ocean Region has become vulnerable to new unconventional threats, basing facilities acquired by China in the region have further complicated the situation, says Indian Navy's Vice Chief.

"Indian Ocean Region is witnessing a great power rivalry and the situation has been complicated with China having been provided basing facilities at Djibouti, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar," said Vice Admiral S N Ghormade on Saturday. The Vice Chief was speaking on 'Leveraging the Military Powers' at the first Indraprastha Grand Strategy Conference hosted by New Delhi-based think tank Indian Futures.

Adding to the vulnerabilities are piracy, gun running, drug trafficking, illegal immigration, pollution, port security, smuggling, international terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, added Vice Admiral Ghormade.

He pointed to the increased freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea. "Naval forces can be effectively utilised for political signalling and posturing. The increase in freedom of navigation operations in South China Sea by the US Navy and its allies is an apt example."

There are various risks. "Non-adherence to rules based on international order and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, maritime militia, quest for hydrocarbons, and competing EEZ Claims have a risk of manifesting into flashpoints and causing instability."

In the Indian Ocean Region, resources are likely to be a primary driver for contested maritime claims that could lead to conflict. Pressures of population, regional interference, ethnic strife, scarce natural resources, border disputes and weak littoral governments are likely to contribute to instability in the region. "Military power is not only leveraged for military crises but for various other contingencies," he said.

Demand to junk cases against Patidars gets louder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Ahmedabad

BJP government in Gujarat is planning an exercise to withdraw criminal cases against Patidars registered during the reservation movement of 2015. Following this, demands are being raised to withdraw cases against other communities as well. Assembly polls in the state is due next year.

Given that Patidars constitute a significant chunk of voters in the state, efforts have begun to secure their votes. Discussions started soon after a meeting of state BJP president C R Patil and president of Khodaldham Naresh Patel in Rajkot. Khodaldham is a Hindu temple dedicated to Devi Khodal, a patron deity of the Leuva Patels who are a part of the Patidar community.

On Friday, Patidar BJP MPs from the state met CM Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar to discuss the reservation movement. The MPs proposed that cases against Patidars be taken back. Notably, the CM is from the Patidar community.

This has triggered talks among all community leaders that cases other than those dealing with serious crimes should be withdrawn. In a letter to the CM, MP Bharatsinhji Dabhi demanded that what the government plans to with Patidars should be extended to members of other communities like Shekhawats and Thakors, who were also booked during the reservation stir.

"What is being planned for the Patidars is a welcome move. Now, we demand that cases against members of other communities be also withdrawn," Dabhi said in his letter.

Soon, Chotila Congress MLA Hrithik Makwana wrote to the CM and said, "In a democratic country, everyone has the right to protest. Government should not discriminate only by withdrawing the cases against certain agitators. Government should withdraw all the agitation cases related to LRD recruitment, farmers, Anganwadi workers, agitation against unemployment as well as cases of agitation demanding police-grade pay."

PARTING SHOT

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar (L) greets former Congress leader Shubhanand Mukesh and Shambhu Singh Patel as they join JD-U in Patna on Sunday | PTI

VIRAL EFFECT

Outrage over 'anti-women' text in CBSE exam paper

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AFTER social media uproar over a part of the CBSE Class X English exam paper allegedly containing statements which were "anti-women" and "against child rights", the education board on Sunday said it would refer the matter to experts.

The text, shared widely on several social media platforms, was part of the reading section in the exam held on Saturday. It was called out for being "anti-women" and expressing "regressive notions" about families and the role of women.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, too, shared a copy of the question paper on Twitter. "Unbelievable! Are we really teaching children this drivel? Clearly the BJP government endorses these retrograde views on women, why else would they feature in the CBSE curriculum?" she tweeted.

"A passage in one set of the English papers of CBSE Class X exam held yesterday has received mixed reactions from a few parents and students stating that 'it seems to support regressive notions on family and allegedly promotes gender stereotyping'," said the board.

The matter will be referred to subject experts for considered views as per the pre-set procedures, it said.

Earlier, another Congress MP Jothimani, had written to CBSE chairperson Manoj Ahuja expressing shock and anger over the particular text. She highlighted some statements like "the emancipation of the wife destroyed the parents' authority over their children" and "children and servants were... taught their place".

2 more crash victims given final farewell

Lt Colonel Harjinder Singh's wife Agnes Manezes at the crematorium on Sunday | PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi/Bhopal

LT Colonel Harjinder Singh and Naik Jitender Kumar Verma, who were among the 13 killed in a helicopter crash last week with CDS General Bipin Rawat, were cremated with full military honours on Sunday. Singh's cremation took place at Brar Square in the national capital, while Verma was consigned to flames in his native village Dhamanda in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the chiefs of the armed forces laid wreaths on the remains of Lt Col Singh. He is survived by wife Maj Agnes P Manezes (retd) and daughter Preet Kaur, who performed the last rites. Lt Colonel Singh was commissioned into the army in 2001. He served as Staff Officer to the CDS and belonged to 11 Gorkha Rifles. He served at the Line of Actual Control as well as at Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Verma was a Special Forces sniper who was PSO to General Rawat. His remains were brought on a army truck from Bhopal to his village. Huge crowds lined up on the road to bid adieu to the braveheart. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan was in Dhamanda and met the bereaved family. Chouhan announced ₹1 crore for the family and said the village school would be named after Verma.

PM Modi's Twitter handle hacked briefly

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Twitter handle was briefly hacked on Sunday, and a tweet claiming that India has "officially adopted bitcoin as legal tender" was put out from it. The Prime Minister's Office later said the account was immediately secured after the matter was escalated to Twitter. "The Twitter handle of PM @narendramodi was very briefly compromised. The matter was escalated to Twitter and the account has been immediately secured. In the brief period that the account was compromised, any Tweet shared must be ignored," it said. The tweet, after Modi's personal handle was hacked, also claimed that India has officially bought 500 BTC and is distributing them among its residents and shared a link, asking people to hurry up. The future has come today, it said. Modi has been vocal in highlighting the risks associated with crypto, including at the recent democracy summit hosted by US President Joe Biden, and in his internal meetings with government officials In September 2020, the handle of his personal website was hacked.

All states in crisis, but Centre silent, says Gehlot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE Modi government repeatedly asks what the Congress has done in its 70 years of reign. I say, leave alone 70 years; tell us what you have done in seven years," she countered.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, in his address, said: "All state governments are in a financial crisis but the Centre is silent." He alleged that "Modi is the first PM who does not respond to letters of chief ministers."

Congress president Sonia Gandhi was present on the dais but did not speak. Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi missed the rally because he arrived late.

CBI kicks off process for modernisation measures

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated an internal process of modernising, upgrading capacities, setting higher benchmarks for investigation and preventive vigilance.

Sharing this at an event organised as part of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* to award medals to 48 CBI personnel and officials, agency director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal said a comprehensive process was started to add cutting-edge capabilities to combat new-age crime.

"CBI has identified 75 practices, which need to be discouraged so as to enhance efficiency of the organisation," Jaiswal said at the investiture ceremony for excellence in duties.

Referring to designation of CBI as an authorised agency of the Central government to investigate computer-related crimes, Jaiswal said they have a well-functioning cyber crimes unit. He added that CBI has created a specialised cell for investigating online sexual child abuse crimes also.

Detailing the agency's work against crime through investigations, he said the CBI conducted intelligence-based nationwide operations against social media groups involved in online child sexual abuse. He said that during these nationwide operations, CBI identified more than 5,000 individuals from over 80 locations and from 100 countries.

India won direct war in 1971: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi: India won the direct war against Pakistan in 1971 and it will also win the ongoing indirect war against Pakistan-induced terrorism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday. The 1971 war showed that India's division – at the time of its independence from the British rule – in the name of a religion was a "historic mistake", he said. "Pakistan wants to break India by promoting terrorism and other anti-India activities," the minister said in his speech at the inaugural ceremony of 'Swarnim Vijay Parv'.

GAGANYAAN MISSION

Students set record for assembling rocket models

RICHA SHARMA @ Panaji

THE launch of Gaganyaan, India's manned space mission, has been postponed to 2023 due to Covid-19. Nonetheless, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is trying to keep the buzz going and motivate young minds by sponsoring 500 students to create a Guinness World Record for assembling Gaganyaan's functional rocket model at one place.

All these rockets assembled by 500 students following a two-hour exercise at the India International Science Festival (IISF) under the guidance of N Sudheer Kumar (Director, Capacity Building Programme Office, ISRO) were launched at Panaji Gymkhana ground. It was done under the supervision of experts from the country's premier space agency. Around 496 students were part of record-making lot.

"Size of the rocket is 300-350 mm and it will have cartridge of solid propellant. It rocket will weigh around 250-300 gm and can go to a height of 250 metres," said Kumar.

He said it was an attempt to make a working model of GSLV Mark III for human rated launch vehicle (HRLV) for Gaganyaan. Training the students is Diyanshu Poddar's start-up, Rocketeers. "We are not just attempting rocket assembly records but functional Gaganyaan model rockets which were launched at Panaji Gymkhana. Students from Class XI have been trained by 60 volunteers to assemble the rockets," said Poddar, who has launched over 1.5 lakh rockets.

He graduated from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram (IIST), in 2012 and worked with the Chandrayaan 2 team as part of the Spacecraft Mechanism Group of ISRO.

The idea was to train students in understanding rocket science and generate interest by building and launching their models. These rockets, being small, don't go very high but involves skills to understand technology.

SEEKING ACTION

Akhil Bhartiya Teerth Purohit Mahasabha on Sunday urged UP government to take action against groups that shouted slogans on December 6 demanding installation of a Krishna deity inside Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura

3 DROWN AS CAR FALLS INTO POND IN SITAPUR, UP

Ahmedabad	21	11	Mumbai	33	22
Bhopal	27	14	Panaji	32	24
Jaipur	23	11	Patna	25	09
Amritsar	21	07	Lucknow	23	12
Chennai	28	25	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	26	16	Imphal	24	07
Srinagar	11	-04	Chandigarh	24	05

PM Modi to inaugurate ₹900-crore Kashi Vishwanath Corridor today

Ceremony will be aired live to 20,000 temples; UP authorities expect big boost to tourism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

The corridor is secured with state-of-the-art facilities, including an integrated command and control room | EXPRESS

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the ₹900-crore Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi, one his pet projects, on Monday.

As per state government sources the project, ensconced in a sprawling 5 lakh square feet, will complement the Purvanchal Development Corridor and "will be a glorious reflection of the rich cultural and historical heritage of Kashi."

The inauguration ceremony will be aired live to 20,000 temples across the country.

The PM will reach the venue on a boat via Ganga river to inaugurate the project. The three-day extravaganza on December 12, 13 and 14 in connection with the event will be celebrated like Diwali and Dev Deepawali with huge participation of the people of Varanasi.

On Tuesday, the prime minister will address the chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, giving them "tips on good governance in Varanasi".

A direct access to the famed temple from the Ganga banks has become possible with the completion of the project. The corridor has been carved out by decongesting around 400 houses and small temples inside the houses around the temple complex which was originally present in just 3,500 square feet. As part of the project the state government bought all houses surrounding the temple complex on three sides.

The sources said ₹451.9 crore was spent on purchasing the properties and rehabilitating over 1,100 families. The total length of the corridor is 400 metre with its width being 75 metre. While construction, 24 new structures were built and 43 structures restored.

"The corridor will be inaugurated on December 13 at an auspicious time," said Nagendra Pandey, one of the priests at Kashi Vishwanath temple.

According to Varanasi divisional commissioner Deepak Agarwal, city residents have been requested to decorate their homes and create a festive environment on the evening of inauguration. Agrawal said the PM was expected to reach the temple via Ganga river and alight at Jalasen Ghat, the entry point of the corridor.

UP Tourism Minister Neelkanth Tiwari said, "The project would take the dignity of Kashi forward, giving a fillip to religious and spiritual tourism of the holy ancient city".

PM Modi had laid the foundation stone of the corridor in March 2019. The project, which has come up on public-private partnership model, ensures easy walking passages for devotees, utility zones as well as systems in place for crowd management and emergency operational procedures, said Bimal Patel, the project architect.

A statue of Maratha queen Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, who reconstructed the Vishwanath temple, would also be installed as part of the corridor.

> **The project would take the dignity of Kashi forward, giving a fillip to religious and spiritual tourism of the holy city. The tourism sector is expected to grow significantly** — Neelkanth Tiwari, UP tourism minister

UP BATTLE

BAHUBALIS PREPARING TO TRY LUCK IN 2022 POLLS

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

Gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari (centre) is a sitting BSP MLA | FILE

THE UP government's claims of crackdown on organised crime syndicates led by dreaded dons (*bahubalis*) may be winning it accolades but the action has somehow failed to break the morale of these strongmen, who have buildup their empires at the intersection of crime and politics. They are now set to flex muscles in the upcoming electoral battle in the Hindi heartland.

Some of these *bahubalis* are sitting MLAs while some others have earned a strong political legacy by being the members of mainstream political parties. They are adept at running their show even while being inside jail and so the preparations for polls are in full swing.

While some may contest from inside prison cells, others are in lookout for alliances with mainstream players. In fact, it is a two-way symbiotic channel. While the *bahubalis* gain respect by aligning with political bigwigs, the parties in return get both money and muscle power from these men.

From eastern UP to the far west, these strongmen have their presence irrespective of political leanings. The first name that comes to mind in this context is Mukhtar Ansari, the sitting BSP MLA from Mau in eastern UP.

While BSP chief Mayawati has made it clear she would not be fielding any *bahubalis* in the polls, Ansari enjoys a massive clout in the Purvanchal region. With or without BSP, Ansari is believed to be preparing to contest the polls from inside prison.

Incarcerated in Banda jail, Ansari may contest from Mau which he has won five times. He may contest from the seat again either as OP Rajbhar's Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) candidate, which is in alliance with Samajwadi Party, or as an independent.

Significantly, in the ongoing crackdown on *bahubalis*, the UP government has reportedly demolished the empire worth ₹387 crore of Ansari, who has over 48 criminal cases against him.

"We are ready to contest upcoming elections as this atrocious government has to go in 2022," said Ansari's son Abbas after meeting his father in Banda jail on Friday.

Ansari's brother Sigbatullah had recently joined the SP. He was earlier with the BSP. Sources close to SP believe Akhilesh may not give ticket to Sigbatullah as he is one of the *bahubali* Ansaris. Ansari's another brother Afzal is the sitting BSP MP from Ghazipur who had defeated Manoj Sinha, the present J&K Lt Governor in 2019.

The second most prominent name in the list is that of Atiq Ahmad. With his area of influence in Prayagraj and adjoining districts, it is yet not clear if Ahmad will contest the polls himself. As per sources, his wife Shaista Parveen may contest in his place on an All India Majlis-e-Ittahad-ul-Musalmeen (AIMIM) ticket. A few days ago, Shaista joined AIMIM in the presence of party chief Asaduddin Owaisi. The sources claim preparations are on to field Shaista from Prayagraj (South), traditional seat of Ahmad which he had represented in the Assembly five times.

Ahmad, who was shifted to an Ahmedabad jail on the orders of the Supreme Court in June 2019, has 96 criminal cases against him.

Another name that crops up is that of don-turned-politician Dhananjay Singh. He is expected to contest from Malhani seat of Jaunpur. He carries a reward of ₹25,000 on his head. However, he might soon be reaching out to the people of his constituency as speculations are rife that he may contest on Apna Dal (S) or NISHAD ticket. Both the parties are BJP allies.

In panchayat elections this year, Dhananjay's wife Srikala Reddy became the district panchayat president. The BJP had given this seat to the Apna Dal.

Next in the list is strongman Abhay Singh, an MLA from Ayodhya's Gosaiganj Assembly seat. Sources said Singh was looking forward to try his luck from this seat in the upcoming elections with SP support.

Similarly, in Sultanpur district, siblings Sonu-Monu have a respectable clout. While Chandrabhadra Singh alias Sonu has been a BSP MLA from Isauli and is presently lodged in jail, his brother Yashbhadra Singh alias Monu is campaigning for him. It is likely that Sonu will contest the elections from inside the jail on a BSP ticket yet again.

Turning to western UP, DP Yadav from Badaun is one name that emerges in context of strongmen. Yadav, leading a party Rashtriya Parivartan Dal, is expected to try his fate from Sahaswan seat in possible alliance with the BJP. His nephew Jitendra Yadav is in the BJP while Jitendra's wife, Varsha, is the president of the district panchayat. Yadav had been in the SP, BSP, Congress and BJP in the past. He was a minister in the Mulayam Singh Yadav's government.

LOOKING FOR ALLY AFTER BJP EXIT

Jitendra Singh Bablu is the BSP MLA from Ayodhya's Bikapur Assembly seat. He had recently joined the BJP but his membership was cancelled after strong protest from BJP MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi. At present, he is trying to get a ticket from BJP ally Apna Dal to contest the polls

NAGALAND

Rights body joins chorus for AFSPA repeal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

TAKING note of the killing of civilians by the security forces in a botched-up ambush in Nagaland, the Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR) has raised pitch for the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

The WGHR pointed out that the chief ministers of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur had renewed calls to repeal AFSPA. It said the controversial law was already lifted from Meghalaya and Tripura a few years ago.

"India's human rights record is to be reviewed before its peers at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in October 2022. Repealing this Act would be a positive development to report to the UNHRC at that time," the rights body said.

Expressing solidarity with "the families of coal miners and protestors who lost their lives in Nagaland" on December 4 and 5, the WGHR said, "This was not the first time that gross human rights violations were committed under the AFSPA".

"...Despite the historic judgment of the Supreme Court of India in the Extra-judicial Execution Victim Families Association, Manipur case, followed by a CBI investigation into 39 out of the 1,528 cases of extra-judicial killings in that state, the Government of India is yet to grant prosecution sanction against any member of the armed forces found to be involved in the killings," the rights body lamented.

PDP & regional party stopped from holding meetings, NC event allowed

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

Mehbooba Mufti walks near empty chairs at the PDP meeting venue | PTI

THE J&K administration on Sunday denied permission to two regional parties — PDP of Mehbooba Mufti and People's Conference of Sajjad Gani Lone — for holding party conventions. The police said the PDP convention at party chief Mehbooba Mufti's Gupkar residence in Srinagar was disallowed due to Covid restrictions and security concerns.

However, former CM and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah addressed a party Convention in Anantnag, south Kashmir.

The authorities sealed all the roads leading to Mehbooba's house and didn't allow party workers to move towards the venue. Mehbooba while alleging that she was placed under house detention released a video to denounce the authorities. "The government is inventing new ways to disempower youth. They want to keep the youth away from democracy so that they take the path of violence and it becomes easy for them to kill, beat or jail them," he said.

Police, however, defended disallowing the convention citing Covid and security concerns. "Given the prevalent Covid situation and larger security implications resulting from allowing a large number of people, cars and vehicles to highly-secured Gupkar zone, it was not advisable to allow such a large flow of people and unchecked vehicles," a police spokesman said.

Authorities also disallowed People's Conference from holding a workers' convention in Kupwara in north Kashmir. PC spokesman Adnani Mir said selective enforcement of Covid-19 protocol is a matter of grave concern. Meanwhile, NC vice president Omar Abdullah addressed party workers in Anantnag. He alleged that attempts are being made to weaken the Gupkar Alliance.

Owaisi's quota call aimed at Mumbai election: Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

AFTER the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM demanded 5% reservation for Muslims in education and government jobs in Maharashtra, the Congress alleged the former was "trying to divide the community" ahead of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election.

Maharashtra Congress working president Arif Mohammad Naseem Khan said the Congress-led government had given five per cent reservation to Muslims in the state in 2014.

"The decision was also upheld by the high court but was not implemented by the subsequent BJP government. While the Congress was fighting for Muslim reservation, AIMIM had two MLAs in the Assembly, but why had these MLAs been silent for five years? Why didn't they ask the Fadnavis government for an answer?" the Congress leader said, claiming that both MLAs of AIMIM had supported the BJP government."

Khan also said the AIMIM "remembers Muslim reservations only when the elections are approaching and once the elections are over, they forget about it".

NOT OVER

More stolen items of Maradona recovered in Assam

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

The recovered items include two pairs of shoes and two iPads | EXPRESS

AFTER recovering a heritage Hublot wristwatch that belonged to Diego Maradona, the Assam Police seized several other stolen items, believed to be that of the late football legend. During a raid at the house of the in-laws of Wazid Hussein, the police recovered two iPads, one jacket, one T-shirt, two pairs of shoes, a toy doll, two squash rackets, one watch, six lighters, among others.

"In continuation to the recovery of stolen articles belonging to football legend Diego Maradona, a search operation was conducted by Sivasagar Police at the in-laws' residence of the accused Wazid Hussein at Khumatai in Charaideo district," Sivasagar Superintendent of Police Rakesh Roushan told this newspaper on Sunday.

"The articles have been seized observing all necessary legal formalities. It is to be ascertained how much of them belong to Maradona," the police superintendent added.

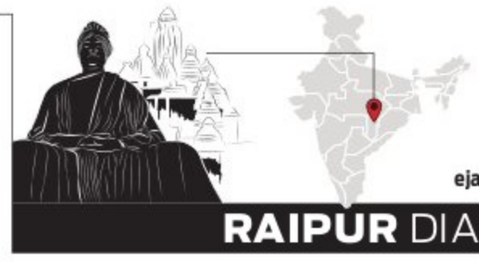
On Friday night the Sivasagar Police had recovered the heritage Hublot wristwatch and arrested the accused. He worked as a domestic help at the football star's Dubai home.

Earlier, the Dubai Police had alerted an Indian law-enforcement agency about the accused. The latter, in turn, had informed the Assam Police of the 37-year-old accused.

The next step of the Assam Police will be based on how the Dubai Police want the case to be pursued. "If they want, we will have to deport the accused. If not, we will follow due legal procedure here," the police superintendent added.

Institute of Driving-Traffic Research inaugurated

CM Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated the Institute of Driving and Traffic Research (IDTR) in Nava Raipur, state's new capital city. It's a joint initiative of the state transport department and Maruti Suzuki, set up under public private partnership (PPP) model. Built at a cost of `17 crore and spread over an area of 20 acres, the institute is well equipped with state-of-the-art modern training facilities. It will play a significant role in giving lessons on safe driving skills. The training will be offered by experts on driving, parking and other modes. The trainees will be also instructed about the engine parts of vehicles.



EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
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RAIPUR DIARY

Agricultural economists body gets new president

The annual general body meeting of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE), established in 1939, has unanimously elected Professor Dinesh Marothia, a renowned agricultural and natural resources economist, as its president for three years. The professor, a former HOD of agricultural economics in Raipur-based agriculture university, is a national coordinator, National Institute of Ecology and a member in the technical advisory board of Global EverGreening Alliance. He has served as team leader/advisor/consultant in various national and international projects and took his academic pursuits to countries like Canada, USA, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Thailand, China, Nepal, Maldives, Kenya, Singapore and the UK. The ISAE has globally evolved as a professional association of agricultural economists.

Reverend Ajay Umesh new Chhattisgarh bishop

Reverend Ajay Umesh James of the Church of North India took charge as the new bishop of Chhattisgarh diocese. He replaced Reverent Robert Ali in a solemn ceremony held at St Paul Cathedral in Raipur. He was accorded a warm welcome in tune with the Chhattisgarh tradition. The occasion was attended by religious preachers, chiefs of various denominations and organisations. Bishop James affirmed that efforts will continue towards turning the Chhattisgarh diocese as the best in the country and in promoting spirituality, harmony, brotherhood and tolerance among people. A separate Chhattisgarh diocese was carved out from the erstwhile Jabalpur diocese in January 2010. During the induction ceremony of the bishop in the state capital, tribute was paid to CDS Bipin Rawat and 12 others who lost their lives in the helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu.

Gauthans emerge source of income

Out of the 7,777 *gauthans* (cattle shed premises) across the state, there are over 2,000 where women self-help groups (SHGs) are engaged in productive activities. Gauthans are seen as providing employment and generating trade activities of various locally prepared products by women. Under the 'Godhan Nyay Yojana', the unutilised disposable cow dung is procured by the state. Besides vermicompost, proven utilities of cowdung include livelihood and income generation. At present, marketing activities of products from these gauthans are going on at faster pace.

3 killed
as apartment building collapses after explosion caused by gas leak in Sicily

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	22	15	HR	Los Angeles	30	17	SNY
Colombo	29	26	TDS	Melbourne	13	7	LR
Dhaka	30	26	TDS	Moscow	6	5	LR
Dubai	40	31	SNY	New York	25	18	SNY
Houston	38	25	SNY	Singapore	31	27	LC
Istanbul	30	20	SNY	Toronto	22	19	LC
London	20	10	LC	Washington	27	18	LC

March 18, 1925 | Missouri, Illinois and Indiana
695 deaths
April 5, 1936 | Mississippi
216
April 6, 1936 | Georgia
203
April 9, 1947 | Oklahoma
181
May 22, 2011 | Missouri
158
DEADLIEST FIVE
A 1925 tornado which killed nearly 700 is the deadliest that US has faced since 1900

An aerial view of homes and business destroyed by a tornado in Mayfield, Kentucky | AFP

Rescuers race against time to find tornado survivors, toll 94

People comfort each other as they wait for news on their loved ones

MAYFIELD

US rescuers desperately searched for survivors on Sunday after tornadoes killed at least 94 and left towns in ruin, with emergency crews racing against time to find dozens still missing from a collapsed Kentucky factory.

President Joe Biden called the wave of twisters, including one that traveled more than 320 kilometers, "one of the largest" storm outbreaks in American history. "It's a tragedy," a shaken Biden, who pledged support for the affected states, said in televised comments. "And we still don't know how many lives are lost and the full extent of the damage."

With the death toll all but certain to rise, scores of search and rescue officers were helping stunned citizens across the US heartland sift through the rubble of their homes and businesses overnight.

More than 80 people are dead in Kentucky alone, many of them workers at a candle factory in Mayfield, the state's Governor Andy Beshear said Sunday as he raised the confirmed toll by 10 fatalities.

And the forecast was grim. "That number is going to exceed more than 100," Beshear told CNN. Meanwhile, at least six died in an Amazon warehouse in Illinois where they were on the night shift processing orders ahead of Christmas. Emergency crews worked through the night into Sunday at both locations, but the Kentucky governor's somber remarks suggested his state's residents should brace for the worst. Of the 110 employees working Friday night in the candle factory, "about 40 of them have been rescued and I'm not sure we're going to see another rescue," Beshear said.

The catastrophe has shaken many Americans, including officials who have worked in the aftermath of tornadoes and other big storms.

"This event is the worst, most devastating, most deadly tornado event in Kentucky's history," Beshear said Saturday, adding he fears "we will have lost more than 100 people."

At least 14 people were killed in other storm-hit states, including six at the Amazon facility in Illinois.

Four were killed in Tennessee, two died in Arkansas, while Missouri recorded two fatalities. Tornadoes also touched down in Mississippi. At the Amazon warehouse in the southern Illinois city of Edwardsville, around 100 workers are believed to have been trapped inside.

"We identified 45 personnel who made it out of the building safely... and six fatalities," Edwardsville fire chief James Whiteford told reporters. *AFP*

This event is the worst, most devastating, most deadly tornado event in Kentucky's history. The devastation is unlike anything I have seen in my life, and I have trouble putting it into words

Andy Beshear, Kentucky Governor

CALIFORNIA BRACES FOR STORM 'THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR YRS'

A major storm is headed toward Northern California, promising to drop up to 10 feet (3 meters) of snow on Sierra Nevada mountain peaks and bring much-needed rain throughout the region. Rain was expected in the Bay Area, with snowfall in the Sierras starting Sunday before getting heavier between Monday and Tuesday, according to forecasters. "If you live in the Sierra, today is the final day to prepare for a multi-day winter storm that will likely be remembered for years to come," the National Weather Service warned in a forecast issued Saturday. "If you are traveling through the Sierra, either get ahead of the storm or wait until it's over to get up there," a meteorologist said

British PM's photo at event amid lockdown triggers row

LONDON

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday faced fresh questions about alleged government breaches of coronavirus restrictions after a photo emerged of him at a Christmas event last year.

The British prime minister has faced a barrage of criticism and calls to quit over claims of an illegal Downing Street party on December 18, 2020. He has repeatedly said he was assured the gathering complied with social distancing restrictions in place at the time and has ordered an internal investigation.

Boris Johnson

But the Sunday Mirror published a photograph of Johnson said to have been taken three days before that party, at a "virtual quiz" for his staff, in which four teams of six people took part to raise funds for charity. Christmas lunches and parties that were "primarily social activity" were banned at the time, as Britain — one of the worst-hit countries by Covid-19 – battled a surge in cases of the Delta coronavirus strain.

Mixing of more than two people from two households indoors was banned, scuppering Christmas plans for millions after months of tight restrictions, including lockdown. The left-leaning Sunday Mirror said Johnson took part for up to 15 minutes and asked questions as quizmaster in one round.

Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi dismissed the latest report, telling Sky News television: "Many people would have had similar Zoom quiz nights around the country."

But the main opposition Labour party said it showed Johnson presided over "a culture of disregard for the rules at the heart of government", after a slew of claims that parties were held across Whitehall last Christmas. An Opinium poll for *The Observer* put Labour nine points ahead of Johnson's Conservatives, and suggested 57 per cent of people think he should quit -- up nine points from two weeks ago.

ASIA MATTERS

Another policeman shot amid polio drive

Gunmen shot dead a policeman guarding a polio vaccination team in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday, authorities said, the second such killing in two days. No one has taken responsibility for the killing, which comes a day after an attack claimed by the Pakistani Taliban in which two men gunned down a policeman who was guarding a vaccination team in the same area.

Surgeons to separate twin girls

Bangladeshi surgeons will on Monday separate conjoined twin toddlers in a marathon procedure long-delayed by the coronavirus pandemic. The two-and-a-half year old girls, Labiba and Lamisa, were born joined at the back and share a spine, genitalia and part of their intestinal tract.A team of 35 doctors will oversee an expected 10-hour operation.

Bennett becomes first Israeli PM to visit UAE

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Naftali Bennett arrived in the United Arab Emirates Sunday for the first official visit by a prime minister of the Jewish state, after they established diplomatic ties last year.

The trip announced by Bennett's office comes with Israel making a renewed diplomatic push against international talks which global powers resumed with its arch foe Iran over the Islamic republic's nuclear programme.

Bennett on Monday meets Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to discuss "deepening the ties between Israel and the UAE, especially economic and regional issues," the prime minister's office said.

There was no immediate comment from the UAE on the visit.

Just before 4:30 pm (1430 GMT), Bennett's office announced his plane had taken off from Ben Gurion Airport in central Israel on what the premier called a "historic" visit and "first of its kind."

A spokesman for Bennett, Matan Sidi, later confirmed: "The entourage of the prime minister has landed now in Abu Dhabi, the UAE, for PM Bennett's first visit to the country."

Before boarding the plane, the prime minister said his trip "is aimed at deepening the cooperation between the countries, in all fields."

"The relations are excellent and extensive, and we must continue to nurture and strengthen them, and build the warm peace between the people," he said in a video issued by his office.

The UAE last year became the third Arab nation to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

AFP

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett (R), and Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked (L), arrive for the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem | AFP

QuoteExpress

OPPORTUNITY DOES NOT KNOCK, IT PRESENTS ITSELF WHEN YOU BEAT DOWN THE DOOR

KYLE CHANDLER

Taliban quietly creating a regular army, wants a spy agency too

ISLAMABAD

WITH security challenges mounting, the Taliban, which seized control of Afghanistan in August, have begun the task of creating a new regular army.

The aim is to have a regular fighting force that can defend the country against both internal and external threats, an official in the Afghan defence ministry told Nikkei Asia.

"The country needs a small but strong regular army not only to protect and defend the borders but also to counter internal security threats," the official told *Nikkei Asia*.

Analysts believe a regular fighting force will help the Taliban counter the growing threat posed by the local wing of the Islamic State. As per one count, the ISIS-K has conducted more than 100 attacks, most of them targeting the Taliban leaders, since mid August.

The process of creating an army, however, is very complex and the insurgents have sought the help of Pakistan and China.

A Taliban official said the group is also keen on setting up an intelligence agency. "Forming a specialised intelligence agency on the pattern of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence is also part of the future plan," the official said.

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105.

IFTNo.KMF/ENGG/Hassan-MegaDairy/2021-22 Date: 13.12.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]

Hassan Milk Union Ltd., desires to establish New Mega Dairy project and with regard to establishment of the Project & on behalf of HAMUL, Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible suppliers / manufacturers / reputed eligible firms through E-procurement for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed suppliers / manufacturers / firms who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs)	Period of completion
1	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 10 LLPD capacity expandable to 15 LLPD capacity Automated Milk processing plant with 60MTPD Capacity powder plant equipments and value added products manufacturing & packing equipments, including product piping, Utilities piping, Electrical, Automation works etc., complete on turn-key basis for Hassan Milk Union at Hassan.	1 Job	3,11,00,000/-	18 months
2	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Refrigeration system including Cold rooms / deep freezer suitable for 10LLPD Capacity expandable to 15 LLPD Capacity Milk processing plant including 60 MT capacity powder plant for Hassan Milk Union at Hassan on turn-key basis.	1 Job	40,00,000/-	15 months
3	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Steam generation Plant with fuel & ash handling system with accessories including Steam header, Steam piping, PRS, Insulation & structural supports and other utilities like air compressor, Hydro pneumatic system, Water treatment plant etc., suitable for establishment of 10LLPD Capacity expandable to 15 LLPD Capacity Milk processing plant including 60 MT capacity powder plant for Hassan Milk Union at Hassan on turn-key basis.	1 Job	50,00,000/-	15 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 13.12.2021 to 27.01.2022 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Pre – bid meeting date : 29.12.2021 at 11.30 am
3. Last date for Tender submission date:27.01.2022 up to 4.00 pm
4. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 28.01.2022 at 04.30 PM.

For Karnataka Co-Opp. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/-
Director [Engineering]

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office : 802, Natraj By Rustomjee, Western Express Highway, Sir M.V. Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400069, Maharashtra.
Jayanagar Branch : Office No.180, Amrutha, 5th Main, 4th Block West, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560011, (KA).
KR Puram Branch : Office No. 1218, 2nd Floor, Pooja Complex, Old Madras Road, K R Puram, Bangalore - 560036, (KA).
Nelamangala Branch : 1st floor, Katha No. 658/A, Vinayaka Nagar, Arishinakunte, Near Honda Showroom, Nelamangala, Banglore - 562123, (Karnataka).

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1	(Appl No.V0123032) Jayanagar Branch Ramesha L (Borrower) Jeevitha R K (Co-Borrower)	Northern portion of Site No.28, SSBV Layout, Property No.28/28, No.150200102501220008, Bodarahalli Village, Suragajakkanahalli Gram Panchayath, Sy.No. 527, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 562106, Karnataka. Bounded on : East by : Site No.33, West by : Road, North by : Site No.29 and South by : Remaining Property of same Site Number.	12-07-2021 ₹ 2,47,178.00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight Only.)	09-12-2021
2	(Appl No.00218247) KR Puram Branch Muniyamma M (Borrower) Sandeep C M (Co-Borrower)	Site No.12/13, Property No.150300401001100017, Cheemandahalli Village, Doddagettiganabbi GP, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562114, Karnataka. Bounded on : East by : House of Muniyappa, West by : Road, North by : House of Muniraj and South by : Property of Nagaraj and School.	11-06-2021 ₹ 17,54,985.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five Only.)	08-12-2021
3	(Appl No.00185332) Nelamangala Branch Narasimhamurthy K (Borrower) Jayamma N (1st Co-Borrower) Chethana K N (2nd Co-Borrowe)	Khatha No.8/3, E-Swat No.150300700900200008, Kuruvel Thimmanahalli Village, Narasipura Grama Panchayath, Sompur Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural - 562111, Karnataka. Bounded on : East by : Site of Narasayya, West by : Site of K Rajanna, North by : House of D Ramayya and South by : 4 Feet Road in same property.	09-08-2021 ₹ 11,24,767.00 (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Seven Only.)	08-12-2021
4	(Appl No.00239868) Jayanagar Branch Lalitha R (Borrower) Guruprasad R (Co-Borrower)	Site No.1, Katha No.39, Asst. No.39, Madanayakanahalli Village & G P, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluka - 562123, Karnataka. Bounded on : East by : Road, West by : My Own Private Property, North by : Property of Setu and South by : Road.	12-07-2021 ₹ 17,10,850.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Only.)	09-12-2021
5	(Appl No.V0108537) Jayanagar Branch Philomin Raj (Borrower) Deva Priya (Co-Borrower)	House List No 65, ITI Notified Area, Khatha No 38/1/108, Kowdenahalli Village, Rammurthynagar, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk - 560016 Karnataka. Bounded on : East by : House on Site No.74, West by : 25 Feet Road leads upto Main Road, North by : House on Site No.66 and South by : House on Site No.64.	12-07-2021 ₹ 20,69,068.00 (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Sixty Eight Only.)	09-12-2021
6	(Appl No.00296254) KR Puram Branch Maheshwari N (Borrower) Srinivas Rao J (1st Co-Borrower) Ravi Kiran J (2nd Co-Borrower)	Site No. 17, Propererty No. 88/3, Marenalli Village GP Katha No. 932/1032/17, M Hosahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk - 562157, Karnataka. Bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Site No.36, North by : Site No.18 and South by : Site No.16/A.	12-07-2021 ₹ 9,90,658.00 (Rupees Nine Lakhs Ninety Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Eight Only.)	08-12-2021
7	(Appl No.V0130179) Jayanagar (Old Branch Bommanahalli) Branch Poornima S (Borrower) P V Chandrashekar (Co-Borrower)	Plot No.68, New Sy. No. 63/2/, 63/4, 63/5, J. P. Enclave, VP Khata No.168/68, Property No.152900402002720162, Near Eagelton, Talaguppa Village, Manchanayakanahalli GP, Bidadi Hobli, Tq. and Dist Ramanagar - 562109, Karnataka. Bounded on : East by : Site No.69, West by : Site No.67, North by : Road and South by : Site No.85.	09-08-2021 ₹ 5,51,138.00 (Rupees Five Lakhs Fifty One Thousand One Hundred Thirty Eight Only.)	08-12-2021
8	(Appl No.V0139303) Nelamangala Branch Bhagyamma N (Borrower) Thippaiah M (Co-Borrower)	1. Old SY No.89, New Sy. No.89/2, Nandagudi Village and Hobli, Hoskote Tq, Bangalore Rural District - 562122 Karnataka. Bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Property of Chikkamallappa, North by : Storm Water Drain and South by : Property of N Bhagyamma in Sy. No.89/3 No.41. 2. Old SY No.89, New Sy. No.89/3, Nandagudi Village and Hobli, Hoskote Tq , Bangalore Rural District - 562122, Karnataka. Bounded on : East by : Site No.69, West by : Site No.67, North by : Property of N Bhagyamma in Sy. No.89/2 and South by : Remaining property of Sy. No.89.	11-06-2021 ₹ 22,03,727.00 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Three Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Seven Only.)	09-12-2021

Place : Bangalore
Date : 13.12.2021

Authorised Officer
Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Know why term insurance premiums are likely to increase

Term insurance premiums may get expensive by 10-20%, but they still contniue to be the most effective when it comes to providing financial security

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE term insurance plans, which provide only life cover and have no investment component – are likely to become expensive by anywhere between 10-20% next year.

The reason being reinsurers, who share some of the underwriting risk of the insurance companies, have decided to increase their rates (for sharing the risk).

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the life insurance companies saw the death claims increase substantially, and so was their claims from reinsurers. For example, SBI Life, one of the listed life insurance companies, saw total death claims rise 74% in 2020-21, while HDFC Life witnessed payment related to death claims rise 28% during the financial year.

While the death claims are across product categories, insurance companies do not reinsure the underwriting risks taken across all products. Since term insurance plans are pure protection products, they give a much bigger life cover at a fraction of cost.

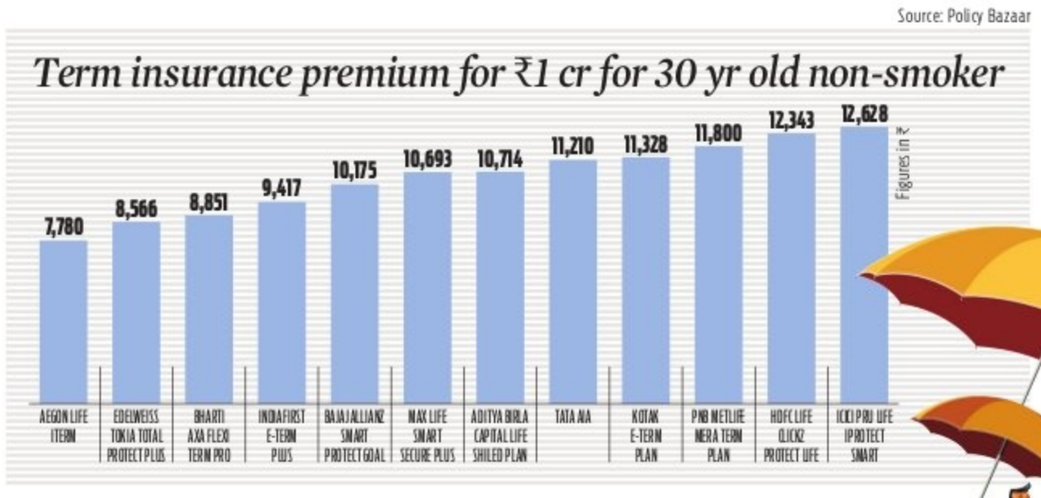
For example, one can take a ₹1-crore insurance cover by paying as low as ₹7,500-12,000 a year.

And since the insurance companies are taking a bigger risk on these plans, they share the risk with a reinsurance company by paying a fee.

The pandemic has resulted in larger death claims payments, which in turn mean reinsurers had to also make increased reinsurance payments to insurance companies. An increase in premium depends on the claims ratio or claim experience of the insurers.

"It is likely that some re-insurers may raise their prices. The reason for the same is that

Source: Policy Bazaar



due to multiple factors, including Covid-19, the actual number of claims settled has been higher than expected. Hence, keeping in mind the future macroeconomic factors, the underlying mortality rate along with other criteria, some reinsurers have taken the decision to revise rates," says Varun Gupta, Chief & Appointed Actuary, Bharti AXA Life Insurance.

According to Jitendra Singh, vice-president, Swastika Insurance Broking Services Limited, the premium may increase between 10-20%.

He says that many insurers have already increased the premium whereas some insurers are likely to increase it in due course of time.

Who's getting impacted

If you already have one or more term insurance plan(s), you should not be worried about any increase in your premium as life insurance premiums are locked from the day one purchases the insurance policy. "Existing customer or customers who are looking to buy insurance in the next few days, need not worry about the increase in premiums as the premium amount they are currently paying will remain locked and not be impacted by the reinsurers decision to increase premiums," says Gupta.

But those looking to delay their purchases may have to shell out more – especially – if they fall in the above 35-year age category.

Why term insurance is necessary

As explained earlier, term insurance plans are pure protection plans, which means that only in case of the death of the life insured, the family/nominee gets the sum assured.

Term insurance plans are cheaper because the whole premium goes towards providing death cover unlike in investment insurance products such as Unit-linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs), where a part of the premium is used for creating an investment portfolio. Term insurance premiums may get expensive by 10-20%, but they are still the most effective when it comes to providing financial security to your family in your absence.

Over ₹1,300 cr returned to depositers under scheme, says PM Modi

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said deposit insurance reforms undertaken by the government will instill confidence in account holders on the banking system as in the last few days, over 1 lakh depositors have got about ₹1,300 crore of their money stuck with stressed banks.

"Banks play a major role in the prosperity of the country. And for the prosperity of the banks, it is equally important for the depositors' money to be safe. If we want to save the bank, then depositors have to be protected," Modi said in his address at a function on Depositors First: Guaranteed Time-bound Deposit Insurance Payment, at Vigyan Bhawan.

He also assured that about three lakh more such accountholders will get their deposits with the banks that are under the RBI moratorium, soon.

The Deposit Insurance Bill

Parliament in August passed the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021, ensuring account holders get up to ₹5 lakh within 90 days of the RBI imposing a moratorium on the banks.

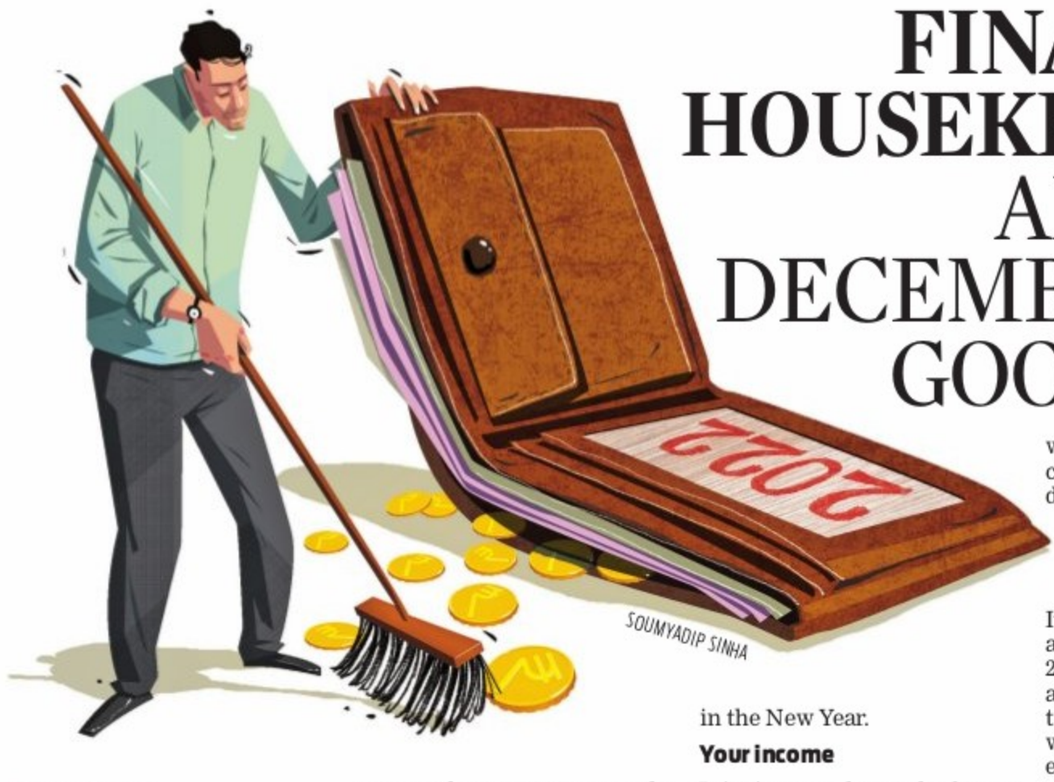
Addressing the same function, the Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das said that depositors must be careful of schemes offering high returns.

"There are institutions offering higher rates. Higher return higher interest rate has also higher risk. Depositors should be careful while chasing high returns," Das said.

Parliament in August passed the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021, ensuring that account holders get up to ₹5 lakh within 90 days of the RBI imposing a moratorium on the banks.

Deposit insurance covers all kinds of deposits such as savings, fixed, current and recurring deposits in all commercial banks. Deposits in state, central and primary cooperative banks, functioning in states and Union Territories are also covered.

With a deposit insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh per depositor per bank, the number of fully protected accounts at the end of the previous financial year constituted 98.1% of the total number of accounts as against the international benchmark of 80%.



FINANCIAL HOUSEKEEPING AROUND DECEMBER IS A GOOD IDEA

RAJAS KELKAR

IT is the end of the year, and you need to clean up. You may do a lot of work in your house putting everything in order. Your finances deserve equal attention. Take a pause and review your money decisions thus far. You may notice things that could make a difference to your long-term finances. There could be some unnecessary subscriptions that you may want to discontinue or investment opportunities that you could have easily used to generate an extra return.

Your spending or expenditure

The first step in this exercise is to look at your spending for the year. If you have a credit card or a savings account with a technology-savvy bank, you can use their mobile app or website to analyse your spending.

There are consumer surveys that reveal a difference between the amount people 'think' they spend and the amount they 'actually' spend. The convenience of using your smartphone for payments means your spending would be substantially higher than you think. If that is the case, you may want to know the truth. Most of you have multiple credit cards or bank accounts. You may want to use a credit card with a lower limit or a bank account with your designated money for spending. That way, you can curb your urge to spend efficiently.

The other important thing is to check your credit score. You may want to do a course correction if you have missed making loan repayments on time. Do not let it fall; otherwise, you would end up paying more interest on your loans. Your credit card statements for the year would make interesting reading on relevant and irrelevant expenditures. Try to highlight them and think hard. Ask yourself questions about their need and ensure mistakes are not repeated in the New Year.

Your income

It is time to take stock of your sources of income. Everybody wants more income to fulfil their dreams. However, your existing job or business may not be adequate to help you realise your financial goals. Many Indian households invest in real estate to generate a rental income. That works as a second income for many. However, you need to figure out the cost-benefit of owning a property and the adequacy of your rental income.

If you have invested in more than one property, you may want to consider holding more financial assets. Some stocks pay a higher dividend every quarter. These are usually bluechip companies that have a consistent profit record. The valuation of these companies does not matter if you are a long-term investor.

The other option is to look at mutual funds with a monthly dividend pay-out and offer returns linked to the market. You need to weigh the benefits of the rental income from the additional properties you own with the ease of owning financial assets and generating a dividend income. It is good to speak to a financial advisor to understand the nuances.

Your investments

It could be a good idea to rebalance your portfolio. The year 2022 could be a year of rebalancing. The world has enjoyed the benefits of easy money, where interest rates have hovered around zero for a long time. However, things are changing rapidly. The US is witnessing an inflation rate never seen in 52 years. That could push the US Federal Reserve, the central bank, to raise rates sooner than later. The year 2022 could see rich countries raising interest rates. In India, that could mean a lot of things. First, the stock markets could witness an upheaval.

As the US dollar strengthens, money could flow out of India and other emerging markets. Second, a strong rally for over 18 months could mean institutional investors resort to churning portfolios. They would move out of sectors sensitive to interest rate movements and move into new industries solving problems through technology.

Digital transformation is a buzzword in boardrooms. Companies that provide products and services that enable digital transformation would attract more money.

(The author is editor and publisher at www.moneyminute.in)

MONEY-WISE

YEAR-END FUND ROUND UP

AN eventful calendar year draws to a close. A year in which the pandemic continued to dominate headlines and overturn lives, but yet the equity markets thrived, in the hope of a better tomorrow and the worst of the pandemic being behind us.

Those investors that held their nerve and resisted the temptation to sell-off their equity fund holdings during the year have been handsomely rewarded across categories. It is thus time to cast a random glance at some reasonable performers during the year across equity mutual fund categories ranging from Large to Large and Mid-Cap, Mid-Cap, Small-Cap and Flexi-Cap.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

Canara Robeco Bluechip Equity Fund is a Large-Cap fund with an AUM of ₹5,070 crore. As its name suggests, the majority of its holdings which is approximately 91% is in Large-Caps and the remaining is in Mid-cap stocks. Its top holdings are in the Financial, Technology and Energy sectors. The performance of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time period is 28.75%, 21.26% and 18.69% respectively.

Axis Growth Opportunities Fund is a Large & Mid Cap fund with an AUM of ₹5,006 crore. Its current holdings are approximately 38% is in Large-Cap, 56% in Mid-cap and 6% in Small-Cap stocks. Its top holdings are in the Technology, Financial and Chemical sectors. The performance of this fund over a 1-year and 3-year time period is 47.56% and 27.72% respectively.

DSP Midcap Fund is a Mid-Cap fund with an AUM of ₹14,190 crore. Its current are approximately 19% in Large-Cap, 77% in Mid-cap and 4% in Small-Cap stocks. Its top holdings are in the Chemical, Financial and FMCG sectors. The performance of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time period is 29.22%, 21.46% and 16.54% respectively.

L&T Emerging Business Fund is a Small Cap fund with an AUM of ₹7,837 crore. Its current holdings are approximately 2% in Large-Cap, 21% in Mid-cap and 77% in Small-Cap stocks. Its top holdings are in the Construction, Engineering, and Metals sector. The performance of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time period is 72.71%, 22.62% and 20.36% respectively.

Parag Parikh Flexi-Cap Fund is a fund with an AUM of ₹17,220 crore. Its current holding is approximately 81% is in Large-Cap, 15% in Mid-cap and 4% in Small-Cap stocks. Its top holdings include the Technology, Financial and Service sectors. The performance of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time period is 46.60%, 29.33% and 22.84% respectively.

In the fortnight ahead, we shall review the hybrid equity category of mutual funds.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹493.30

Target Price ₹565

TATA MOTORS

TTMT should witness a gradual recovery from 2QFY22 lows as supply-side issues ease and commodity headwinds stabilize (for the India business). It would gain from the triple benefits of: a) a macro recovery, b) company-specific volume/margin drivers, and c) sharp improvement in FCF and leverage in both JLR as well as India business.

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*

After RBI meet, all eyes now on inflation data

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA' equity market ended on a strong note last week despite a weak start due to concern of rising cases of omicron variant. The market then witnessed a sharp recovery, thanks to easing concerns of omicron and dovish RBI policy.

Sensex and Nifty ended last week with healthy gains of nearly 2% to close at 58,786.67 levels and 17,511.30 levels, respectively. Amongst the sector, most indices ended in the positive with realty, metals and capital goods being the top gainers. On the broader market front, midcap and small-cap too ended in the green in the range of 2.1-3%

Going ahead this week, the decision of the US Fed that is scheduled on 15th December is likely to have a major impact on market movement. Beside this, market participants will keenly watch inflation data and spread of the omicron variant of coronavirus.

How markets fared last week

Sensex and Nifty ended last week with healthy gains of nearly 2% to close at 58,786.67 levels and 17,511.30 levels, respectively. Amongst the sector, most indices ended in the positive.

Yesha Shah, Head of Equity Research, Samco Securities, "Domestic inflation data and the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting will be crucial events that will dominate movements in the Indian benchmark indices. Because the RBI provided no guidance on the rate hike timeline, all eyes will be on the stand FOMC adopts on tapering and interest rate hike trajectory. While it is widely expected that the FED will consider the intensity of the Omicron variant before aggressively preponing tapering plans, any surprises in the announcements can cause choppy movements. Thus, investors should remain cautious and consider value investing till the markets continue to let off steam from excess valuations."

Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart, said that European Central Bank, Bank of England, Swiss National Bank, and Bank of Japan will also come out with their monetary policies this week. The recently announced US inflation numbers are in line with expectations and it was not as bad as there was fear therefore the market is not expecting any negative surprise from the US Fed.

The US inflation rate rose 6.8% over the last year, the highest increase since 1982, Bureau of Labor Statistics said recently. Inflation rose 0.8% in November after rising 0.9% in October.

Meena added that the impact of the omicron variant on the market has cooled off but the news flows related to omicron may continue to cause some volatility.

He also said that it is not a clear trend in the dollar index and US 10-year bond yields, however, our market will be interested to know FIIs' behavior after a period of relentless selling.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking, said, that going ahead, we feel the recovery would remain uneven, thus recommend continuing with a positive yet cautious approach.

"On the index front, Nifty would face resistance around 17,600 and 17,800 zone while on the downside, 17,300-17,150 zone would act as a cushion in case of any dip. Since we're seeing a mixed trend across sectors, the focus should be on stock selection," added Mishra.

EXPRESS READ

Gold ETFs attract ₹683 crore in Nov

New Delhi: Gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) continue to attract investor attention and have garnered net assets worth ₹683 crore in November, as correction in the prices of the yellow metal and Omicron worries pushed investors towards safe haven assets. This was higher than the net inflow of ₹303 crore in October and ₹446 crore seen in September.

Kotak Bank gets Ashu Suyash as director

New Delhi: Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Ashu Suyash as independent director of bank for a period of 5 years. The appointment is effective from January 24, 2022, up to January 23, 2027, the private sector lender said in a statement. The board has also approved raising ₹5,000 crore in through debt instrument in one or more tranches next fiscal, it added.

Ibrahimovic joins Ronaldo and Messi in "300 club"

Zalatan Ibrahimovic became only third player after Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi to score 300 goals in Europe's top five leagues. Ibrahimovic joined the '300 club' in style scoring a bicycle kick in stoppage-time to rescue a point for Serie A leaders AC Milan against Udinese.

MAX WORLD, MERC PROTESTS

Verstappen wins but Mercedes lodge two appeals, allege breach of articles of FIA regulations

VERSTAPPEN (RED BULL)	HAMILTON (MERCEDES)	BOTTAS (MERCEDES)
395.5	387.5	226

It's insane, My goal when I was little was to be a F1 driver. You dream of podiums and victories. But when they tell you that you are world champion, it's incredible."

Max Verstappen, new world champion

AP @ Abu Dhabi

THE most dramatic Formula One season in years ended, of course, in one of the most dramatic finishes possible when Max Verstappen snatched the world championship away from Lewis Hamilton with a pass on the final lap of the Abu Dhabi GP. Mercedes filed two protests after the race.

Hamilton was five laps away from passing Michael Schumacher in the record books with an eighth championship on Sunday until a crash gave Verstappen and Red Bull one final chance.

Whatever Hamilton said over his radio when Nicholas Latifi crashed to bring out the safety car was only played as one long beep to cover the expletives.

F1 race director Michael Masi took his time figuring out how to conclude the race before controversially settling on one final lap of racing to decide the title. Verstappen started the final lap just behind Hamilton, chasing him through the first four turns. Verstappen made his pass in the fifth turn and Hamilton had one last shot. He pulled his Mercedes even with the Red Bull but couldn't clear Verstappen, who surged ahead to become the first Dutch world champion.

Verstappen and Red Bull celebrated in a champagne soak, received hugs from his fellow competitors — including Hamilton and Hamilton's father — and made his way to the DJ stand at Yas Marina Circuit and jumped wildly up and down to the music.

"It's just insane, I mean, my goal when I was little was to become a Formula One driver and to go for wins, to be on the podium," said Verstappen. "When they play the national anthem, you want it to be yours and when you stand here and they tell you that you are the world champion, it's something incredible and special."

It was a fitting end to a season that saw the two contenders go wheel-to-wheel over 22 races spanning four continents and arrive in Abu Dhabi tied in the championship standings. It marked the first time the contenders were equal at the season finale since 1974. "Congratulations to Max and to his team, I think he did an amazing job this year," Hamilton said.

Formula One World Champion Red Bull driver Max Verstappen celebrates with British Team Principal of the Red Bull side Christian Horner (R) on the podium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday | AFP

CONSTRUCTORS STANDINGS

Mercedes	613.5
Red Bull	585.5
Ferrari	323.5

Why have Mercedes reviewed?

They lodged two appeals following the race, contesting safety car procedure which resulted in Verstappen overtaking Hamilton on turn five in the final lap. "Mercedes have protested 'against the classification established at the end of the Competition', relating to alleged breaches of Articles 48.8 and 48.12 of the FIA Sporting Regulations," Formula One tweeted. Hamilton was seemingly in control of the race when a crash by Nicholas Latifi with four laps to go set up a one-lap finale.

SPORTS-LINE

Honest, unflinching look at cricket & beyond in India

IT was not at all shocking when the news of Virat Kohli's sacking as the 50-over captain filtered in last week. In Indian cricket, this is nothing new. I have just finished reading 'Not Just Cricket: A Reporter's Journey Through Modern India' and the author Pradeep Magazine talks about this 'musical chair' the Indian cricket board keeps playing every now and then. From the days of MAK Pataudi, Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar to Sourav Ganguly, the writer shares intimate details of such charades succinctly. Tales of suspicion and intrigue dominate the narrative while discussing India's great cricketers, some of whom were given the mantle of captaincy too.

It goes back to the days of one of India's greatest captains, Pataudi. This was prevalent during Gavaskar's and Kapil's reigns too. It continued during Mohammed Azharuddin and Sachin Tendulkar's time also and finally exploded during Ganguly and coach Greg Chappell's forgettable era.

The writer's words on Ganguly's ouster from the team in 2005 is quite poignant but could have been about any captain: "But the Indian captain from Bengal, who had redefined India's gameplay and given new respect to the country in the cricketing world, was now an outcast, dumped and humiliated by the BCCI."

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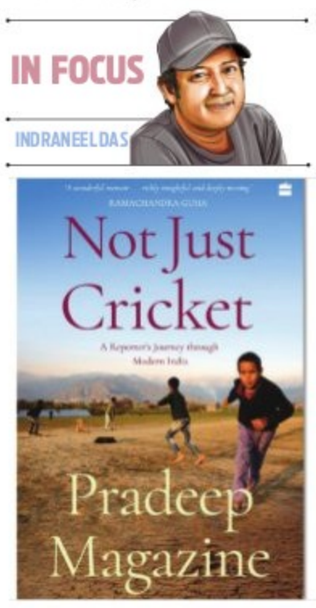
"Pressure, man, pressure". These words may sound ordinary but when uttered by one of the greatest batters of our times, West Indian Brian Lara, at the height of his prowess, it captures the world we live in and a telling depiction of human frailty.

Though the central theme of the book is cricket, the writer's passion, it is also a journey into the socio-political fabric evident during those days. It captures those epochal moments in sport and juxtaposes it with the political and social upheavals of the time. He seamlessly sneaks into one pivotal moment in history and merges into another with effortless ease. When he talks about the tussle between Kapil and Gavaskar, or the bitter fight between Ganguly and Chappell, there is no pretense. Everything is based on observations and facts.

At times when he gets personal during those intimate moments in Kashmir, political upheavals in the country or during his visits to Pakistan, he manages to bring out the beauty of human relationships and bonding that transcends religion, caste, creed and ethnicity. Magazine is privy to some conversations not well known outside the Indian dressing room or the team and he paints the canvas with honesty.



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The writer's exuberance is vivid when he talks about his childhood hero, Pataudi, whom he got to know while working on a potential biography. His recollection of Pataudi's conversations gives us a fascinating account of his hero and his times. "Pataudi gave me the impression of being a reluctant player and a reluctant captain. From the long conversations I had with him it became obvious to me that he rarely enjoyed his cricket, especially after the loss of one eye in a car accident in England," he writes.

Even though match-fixing was unheard those days, the former India captain recollected one incident that was shocking. It was during the 1979-80 India-Pakistan series, with India leading 2-0 after five of six Tests. The last Test was played at Eden Gardens and G Viswanath was the stand-in captain after Gavaskar opted out. "He told me that Asif Iqbal had approached him and suggested that regardless of who wins the toss tomorrow, he will declare that India has won the toss," recalled Pataudi. "This offer of toss-fixing had naturally shaken Viswanath..." There are beautiful anecdotes of Pataudi chronicled in the book.

From Pataudi to Kapil, there's a remarkable change in his approach. He started his career as a reporter after dabbling briefly with radio commentary. The narrative gets more personal. His closeness with Kapil and the access to players from north India give us a glimpse of a cricketing world that's still a mystery to many.

The Kapil-Gavaskar saga is gripping. The accusations and denials form part of a larger world. He talks about how Kapil, despite his immense respect for Gavaskar, felt "that the world's finest batter was undermining his leadership by refusing to open the batting". And this mistrust could have developed during the 1983 World Cup when Gavaskar was dropped a couple of times. Nothing, though, compares to the bitter tiff between Chappell and Ganguly. This is also one of the most fascinating parts of the book.

***

At another level, the book traces the evolution of the game. The money involved and how it turned into a money-making behemoth post the economic liberalisation and its pitfall; the changing dynamics within the board and the power-play by the mandarins. As always he is critical about the power games in BCCI from the time of Raj Singh Dungarpur, Jagmohan Dalmiya, N Srinivasan and Lalit Modi. He could sense the dangers of the Indian Premier League (IPL). For a man who first flagged match-fixing in the game way back in 1997, he was always sceptical of the franchise-based league. The book is a lot more than cricket and the world around us. Magazine has managed to capture the life and times along with the sport that turned into a religion, honestly and truthfully.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Visa issue prevents Siyadat from travelling to Spain

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

INDIA's singles badminton coach, Siyadatullah, will not be with the contingent at the World Championships this week. The Hyderabad-based coach, who was earmarked for the assignment, has still not got his visa so he will be speaking to the players via Zoom throughout the championships.

"I haven't gotten my visa yet," he told this daily. "Even if I do get it by Monday, I can only leave by Tuesday. I have to give a Covid test and wait 24 hours for my results to come through. So it will be be Thursday by the time I will get to go on court. So I won't be joining the team in Spain. I will be speaking with the players individually via Zoom before their matches."

This means that PV Sindhu's personal coach, Park Tae Sang, will be doing double duty at the Worlds. Apart from guiding the double Olympic medallist during the course of the week, he will also be attending to the needs of the four men's singles players (Sai Praneeth, K Srikanth, Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy) in Huelva.

There was a delay in submission of the documents for processing visa and that meant he couldn't get his visa before the tournament began. On Saturday, the coach had expressed hope to this daily that he might be able to travel for the tournament but decided against it as he is yet to get his visa. However, he doesn't envisage any problems in Sang taking some time out to help the likes of Srikanth. "That really shouldn't be a problem," he said. It's not yet known if Sang will be court side for the four men's singles players.

As such, this isn't expected to be a big blow because Sang also knows the way the men's singles players way. Back when Korea's Kim ji-Hyun was training Sindhu in 2019, Sang was in charge of training the singles players. The other Indian coach — Arun Vishnu (for the doubles teams) — had no such problems and reached Spain before the tournament began.

K Srikanth wins first round

HEULVA: INDIAN badminton ace Kidambi Srikanth beat Pablo Abian of Spain to begin his BWF World Championships campaign on a winning note here on Sunday. The 12th seeded Indian beat the local challenger 21-12, 21-16 in 36 minutes in the first round of the men's singles event.

The Indian men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy, however, lost in straight games against Joel Elpe and Rasmus Kjaer of Denmark. Attri and Sumeeth lost 16-21 15-21 in 32 minutes to make an exit from the showpiece event.

Earlier, the women's doubles pair of Pooja Dandu and Sanjana Santosh retired after losing the first game 12-21 to Alyssa Tirtosentono and Imke van der Aar.

EXPRESS READ

Chase, Cotrell, Mayers test Covid positive, out of T20I series in Pak

KARACHI: Left-arm pacer Sheldon Cotrell and all-rounders Roston Chase and Kyle Mayers have been ruled out of the upcoming T20I series against Pakistan after testing positive for Covid-19 upon their arrival in Karachi on December 9. The three-match T20I series between West Indies and Pakistan starts on Monday here at the National Stadium.

SC East Bengal winless streak continues, share spoils with KBFC

VASCO: SC East Bengal's search for the first win in this edition of ISL continued as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Kerala Blasters FC on Sunday. This was the third consecutive draw between these two teams in the ISL which extends SCEB's winless streak to six games. SC East Bengal will face NorthEast United in their next fixture on Friday.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY

Shocking defeat for Tamil Nadu as Karnataka & Kerala win

MARTIN JOSEPH @ Kochi

TAMIL NADU lost by the narrowest of margins to Puducherry while Kerala and Karnataka ran out winners in the Vijay Hazare Trophy on Sunday.

After three straight wins, Tamil Nadu slumped to their first defeat of the campaign when they lost to Puducherry by one run in their Elite Group B clash at the St. Xavier's College ground in Thiruvananthapuram. Washington Sundar picked up a fifer as Tamil Nadu restricted Puducherry to 225. Fabi Ahmed was the top scorer for Puducherry with an unbeaten 87. After the match was truncated to 44 overs with Tamil Nadu needing 205, they fell short agonisingly by just one run. Manish Pandey and Karnataka capitalised on Tamil Nadu's defeat as they secured a six-wicket win over Baroda by the VJD method to go joint top in Group B. After being put to bat first, Baroda posted 176. Karnataka were given a revised target of 147 from 42 overs which they achieved the target in the 39th over.

In Elite Group D, Kerala jumped to the top of the group with a five-wicket win over Chhattisgarh. After his heroics with the bat against Maharashtra, Sijomon Joseph impressed with the ball as he picked up five wickets, restricting Chhattisgarh to 189. Kerala chased down the target comfortably with the top order setting the tone for the victory. Meanwhile, KS Bharat played a starring role for Andhra as they beat Himachal Pradesh by 30 runs in a high-scoring affair.

Brief scores: Elite Group A: J&K 278/9 in 50 ovs (H Nazir 79) bt Odisha 183 in 45 ovs (A Mushtaq 5/38); Andhra 322/4 in 50 ovs (KS Bharat 161, A Hebbar 100) bt Himachal 292 in 46 ovs (R Dhawan 79; G Reddy 4/52); **Elite Group B:** Baroda 176 in 48.3 ovs (KC Cariappa 3/28) lost to Karnataka 150/4 in 38.4 ovs (K Siddharth 46 n.o) by VJD method; Puducherry 225/9 in 49 ovs (F Ahmed 87 n.o; W Sundar 5/48) bt Tamil Nadu 204/9 in 44 ovs (D Karthik 65, N Jagadeesan 64) by VJD method; **Elite Group C:** Delhi 267/7 in 50 ovs (Jonty S 100; Chahal 3/43) bt Haryana 257 in 50 ovs (Shivam C 107; P Sangwan 5/52); Hyderabad 149 in 42.5 ovs (Y Dayal 5/31) lost to UP 151/3 in 26 ovs (K Sharma 44 n.o); **Elite Group D:** Chhattisgarh 189 in 46.2 ovs (Harpreet 98; Sijomon 5/33) lost to Kerala 193/5 in 34.3 ovs (Vinoop M 54; Ajay M 3/27).

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-16)

OS. No. 4364/2018

BETWEEN: 1) Smt. K.S. Seethamma, W/o.Late. K.S. Ramaiah, Aged about 70 years, R/at. No.57, 3rd "A" Cross, 1st Main Road, JC Nagar, Geleyarabalaga, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru - 560 086, and others ...Plaintiffs

AND: 1) Smt. Sumitra, D/o.Late. K.S. Ramaiah, Aged about 45 years, Residing at No.635, 1st Floor, 2nd Stage, E Block Ward Office Road, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560 010, and others ...Defendants

SUIT SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS 6. 13 (b) AND 15

D-(6) Kashipathi, 636, Ward Office Road, II Stage, "E" Block, Rajajinagar, Bengalurur - 560010.

D-(13). N. Varadha Rajan, S/o. P. Narayana Iyengar, Since deceased by his LR's

D-(13)(b)Meghana, D/o. Varadha Rajan, Residing at 635, Ward Office Road, II Stage, "E" Block, Rajajinagar, Bengalurur - 560 010.

D-(15) B.N. Raghavendra Rao, S/o. B.K. Narayana Rao, 635, Ward Office Road, II Stage, "E" Block, Rajajinagar, Bengalurur - 560 010.

Whereas the plaintiffs have instituted the above Original Suit for the relief of partition, declaration, Injunction and other reliefs, against the defendants on the file of the Hon'ble City Civil Judge at Bengaluru (CCH-16) in OS No.4364/2018, hence you all are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit **on 24.01.2022 at 11.00 A.M** to answer the claim. On your failure to appear on the above said date, the case will be determined ex-party against you all.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Item No. 1 : All the part and parcel of the property bearing No.635 2nd Stage E Block, ward office road, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560 010 bounded on:

East by: Road, **West by:** property bearing No.635, **North by:** property bearing No.634 and 534/A, **South by:** Road.

Item No.2 : All the Part and parcel of the Property bearing No. 636 2nd stage E Block ward office road 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560 010, bounded on:

East by: Road, **West by:** property bearing No.637/B, **North by:** Road, **South by:** property bearing No.637.

Item No.3 : All the part and parcel of the Property bearing No. 636/A, 2nd stage, E, Block, Ward Office Road, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010, bounded on:

East by: Road, **West by:** Property bearing No.637/A, **North by:** Property bearing No. 636/B, **South by:** Property bearing No. 637/c.

Item No. 4: All the part and parcel of the property bearing BDA Site No.636 Municipal No.636, 38/3, 2nd Main Road, E Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, bounded on.

East by: Road, **West by:** property bearing No.636, **North by:** property bearing No.636, **South by:** property bearing No.636/A

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 08.12.2021 ay Bengaluru.

By Order of the court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiffs :
V.N. Kumar, Advocate,
No.51/2, Green filed, Immadihalli, Whitefield, Bangalore -560066. Mob:9845462353

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INDULGE

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H.O: No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560 018.Ph: 26677552

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

[APPENDIX IV (RULE 8-(1)]

Where as the undersigned being the authorised officer of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstructionof Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest ACT 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules. at The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

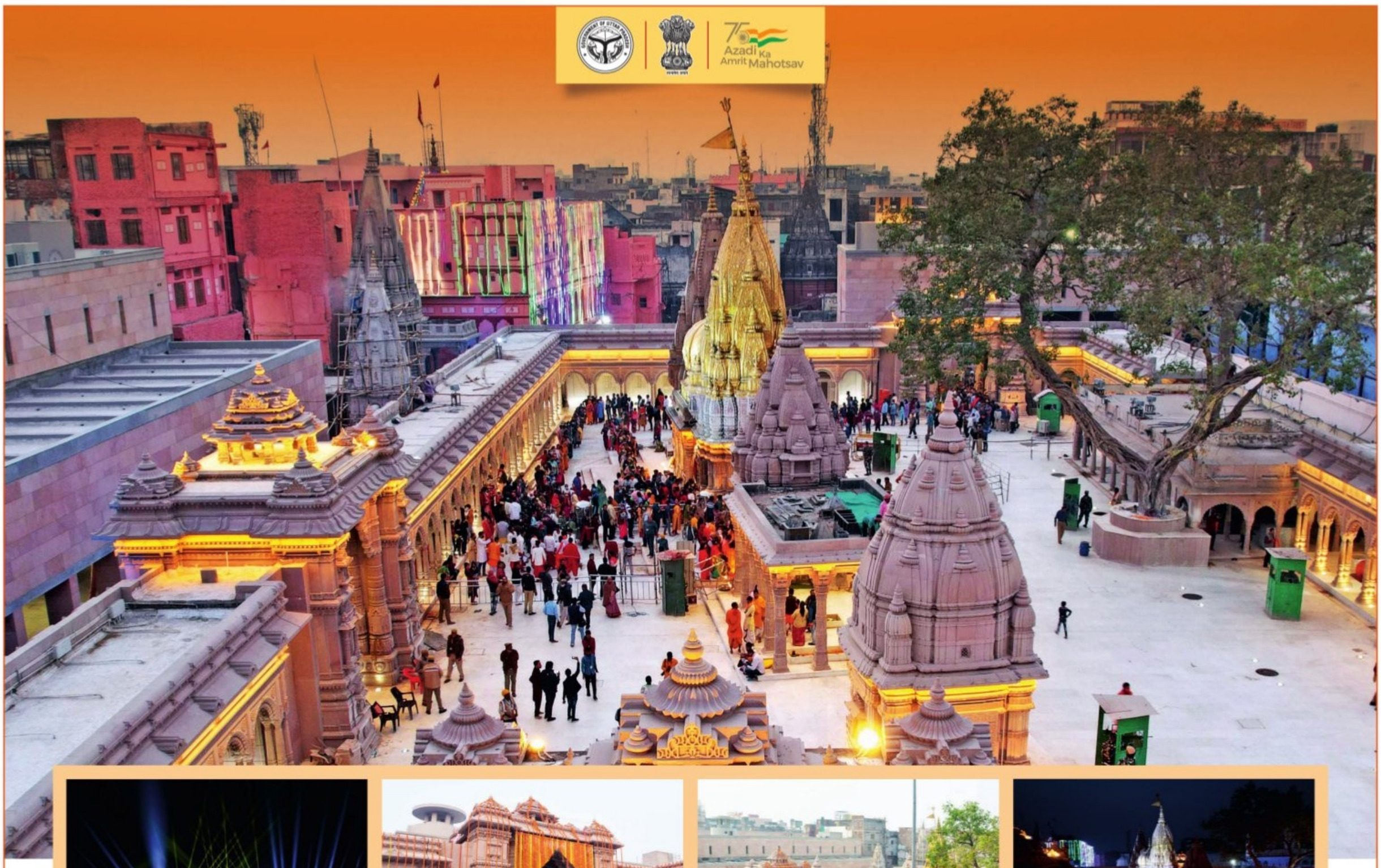
The borrowers in the following accounts having failed to repay the amount, notice is here by given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in bellow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned herein below. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is/are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited for amount and interest on & other charges.

Sl. No	Name of the Borrower & Description of the Property Mortgaged	Date of Possession	Amount outstanding
1	**Smt V.A.Sudha Madhuri** All the piece and parcel of residential Flat No.C-2, present BBMP Katha No.1473/ 1440/1385/35/33/9/C-2, 1st Floor, "VIGNESH HABITAT", constructed on property bearing No.35 (Old No.18 in erstwhile Sy.No.33, Kodigehalli, Yelanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk), 6th Cross, Balaji Layout, Kodigehalli, Bangalore-560092, with 275 sq.ft undivided right, title and interest in the land and 866 Sq.Ft of super built up area with one covered car parking in the stilt floor and the property on which the flat is constructed is bounded on the East by: Road, West by: Property Nos.27, 28 and 29, North by: Property Nos.31, 32, 33 and 34 & South by: Private property . **EARLIER POSSESSION NOTICE DATED: 23.07.2018 & 25.09.2019 STANDS WITHDRAWN**	09.12.2021	21,15,933/- + Int. thereon 09.12.2021
2	**Smt Saira** The Residential Apartment Flat No.A, in the Ground Floor with Super structure building known to be "ANJI VILLA" having built up area measuring 700 Sq.Ft., with 142 Sq.Ft., of undivided share in land along with common area such as entrance Lobby, Staircase and with one scooter parking space in the Ground Floor, constructed on property bearing No.17 and 17/1, (old No.7) PID Nos. 80-5-17 & 80-5-17/1, situated at Pettigrew Street, Civil Station, Ward No.80. Bangalore. Measuring East To West: 35'6" and North To South: 47'9" measuring in all 1695 Sq.Ft and bounded on East by : Property bearing old No.16, Pettigrew Street, West by: Property bearing old No.18, Pettigrew Street, North by: Pettigrew Street & South by: Private Property of Todd Lane. **EARLIER POSSESSION NOTICE DATED: 28.05.2019 STANDS WITHDRAWN.**	09.12.2021	23,96,315/- + Int. thereon 09.12.2021
3	**Sri Ramaiah** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.35, PID No.12-33-35 (Old No.8) Situated at 1st Main Road, Nanjundeshwaranagar, ward No.12, Nandini Layout, Bangalore, Measuring East To West: 40 Ft. and North To South: 30 Ft., in all measuring 1200 Sq.Ft., with constructed building consisting Ground, First, Second and Third Floor and bounded on the East By: BDA Road, West By: Site bearing No.20, North By: Ashwath Katte & Land for Temple & South By: Site bearing No.9. **EARLIER POSSESSION NOTICE DATED: 14.10.2019 STANDS WITHDRAWN**	09.12.2021	28,59,442/- + Int. thereon 09.12.2021

Amount paid if any by any of the above borrowers after issuance of Possession Notice, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realisation / settlement.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 09.12.2021

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,
Bangalore -18



Inauguration of the Rejuvenated and Transformed

Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham

Date : 13 December, 2021 | **Time :** 11:00 AM

Venue : Temple Chowk,
Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Varanasi

Architect of Rejuvenated Kashi

Known all over the world as the city of Baba Vishwanath, Kashi has always been the centre of religion and spirituality. Culture resides in every particle of Kashi. According to the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Central Government and the State Government are developing Kashi into such a state-of-the-art city, whose soul will be ancient, but the body will be modern.

Today, Kashi is moving fast towards all-round and future-oriented development through many public-oriented projects. With the aim of restoring the cultural and spiritual glory of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham complex has been built under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. With its construction, devotees will be able to easily worship Baba Vishwanath as well as have darshan of 'Maa Ganga' from Baba's Dham as it was in ancient times.

This unprecedented and historic work of rejuvenation of Baba Vishwanath Dham has been possible due to the exemplary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, blessings of revered saints and immense cooperation of the great people of Kashi. For this, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all.

It is a matter of good fortune that today Hon'ble Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, is dedicating the grand form of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham complex to the nation. This Rejuvenated Dham will become an important centre of spirituality and culture.

- Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Soch Imaandaar, Kaam Dumdaar

Watch the live telecast on
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DD National/Uttar Pradesh
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CMOfficeUP

Information and Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

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13•12•2021
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Parliament attack

On December 13, 2001, the Parliament of India was attacked by terrorists resulting in the death of nine policemen and Parliament staff

UNWELCOME ENTRY

The terrorists, dressed in commando fatigues, entered in a car displaying Parliament and Home Ministry security stickers

CASUALTIES

When opposed by the security assistant, the terrorists opened fire. A 45-minute gun battle followed between the security and the terrorists

SAFEGUARDING

All five terrorists were killed in the showdown — resulting in further blasts — and identified as Pakistani nationals

Pruthvi Ambaar to headline Aba Jaba Daba

PG 4

CHILD'S PLAY

From salt therapy to nail art, children below the age of 10 are experimenting with some creative ideas to stay engaged

We don't usually allow young children to get gel nail polish unless parents insist on it. It takes about two hours and it's not ideal for children to be exposed to certain rays

Maude Abraham, beauty salon owner

ANILA KURIAN

ON a Saturday morning, a group of seven children between the ages of 6 and 8 years of age are at a playdate. This is not a usual one... here the kids are playing at a salt studio amidst 5,000 kg of Himalayan salt.

Say hello to new-age playdates with Bengaluru parents pulling all the stops to ensure their children have fun and also explore new things. Owner of Bodhsara Wellness and Salt Studio Mita Vinay, says, "It's a concept borrowed from Russia where a room filled with salt has proven to help one heal from various illnesses. Be it a cold or cough, playing around in the salt will release the mucus and make one feel better." She goes on to add that the last two years have been particularly challenging for parents to find a space to meet. "Children imagine the salt studio to be of beach sand with forts and many other elements. Children who came with dry skin and blocked noses immediately showed results and they seemed healthier after the 40-minute session which is priced ₹700 onwards per person," Vinay adds. Tripti Mehra, finance professional and mother of two boys, says the salt therapy was an excellent option for kids. "My kids haven't had much of an outside life in the last two years. I've used the services before and that's why I brought my kids. My children have some chest congestion and through this playdate, they got to play with their friends and get a dose of wellness along with it," she says.

A 'mani-pedi party' at a salon seems to be emerging as a popular trend among young children too. "We recently had a request to have about 12 very young girls to attend a child's birthday party. Everyone had a blast as some of them got their hair glittered and painted too," says Maude Abraham, founder of Get Gorgeous Beauty Bar. The wedding season is calling out young fashionistas who want to look prim and proper. Abraham points out that children as young as six are opting for gel nail polish now, priced at ₹110 onwards. "We don't usually advise it unless the parents insist on it. It takes about two hours and there are certain rays that they'll have to be exposed to which is not always a good idea," she says, adding that hair glitter is one of the latest trends.

"But children come along with the bride and other adults, and in order to seem like they are part of the wedding festivities, and with the permission of parents, they end up getting nail paints and polishes done too," says Abraham.

Founder of Nailbox Sneha Bhagwat highlights their 'Princess Menu' which is a manicure-pedicure combo for children below the age of 13. "Kids who come in with their parents these days want to get nail extensions but we don't usually encourage that. But on some occasions, we have done a couple of them. They find it very exciting," says Bhagwat, who points out that festive season also sees children asking for graphic nail art. "They want everything from a snowflakes, to gifts and snowmen painted on their nails. When it comes to creative work like this, children have a lot of ideas and patience till the work is done. It's a good change and a great way to keep them entertained," she says.

A playdate in progress at Bodhsara Wellness and Salt Studio, Koramangala | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

A young customer at Nailbox

DANCE DRAMA

Abhinava Dance Company showcased dance drama Rama Katha Vismaya at Dayanand Sagar Institutions, Kumaraswamy Layout, on Saturday. It is a bedtime story about Rama narrated by Yashodha to little Krishna. 70 artistes, led by Nirupama and Rajendra, performed this 90-minute show. | SHRIRAM BN

Pampering time

If you're looking for a zero-waste, eco-friendly and handcrafted hamper, try a hamper from Bare Necessities. It includes a coffee body scrub, bath salt, lip balm, spa bars and a zero-waste postcard.

Price: ₹ 1,600
Details: barenecessities.in

Mug-nificant idea

A Christmas mug that comes with a spoon — perfect to sip that cuppa hot chocolate. Versatile and an essential requirement, this can be used on a daily basis. **Price:** ₹899 onwards **Details:** bigsmall.in

Wrapped WITH love

Looking for gifting ideas this Christmas? Here are some fun and quirky options to choose from

EXPRESS FEATURES

THE season to be joyful and merry is right around the corner and that means it's also the time when gifts are exchanged. With a plethora of options, zeroing-in on that right gift can be quite time consuming. Here are some suggestions that might help narrow down the choices.

Box of love

Whether it's your parents, 4am friend, mentor, or doctor whom you want to show gratitude towards this year, the Gratitude Box from GottaEatBetter hamper will say it all. It has snack packs, a diary, seed bomb, tea light. You can also include a personalised note along with it.

Price: ₹2,100
Details: gottaeatbetter.com

Comfy calls

Say how much your loved ones mean to you with comfy sleepwear from StyleForMe. Christmas-themed pyjamas are always a great idea as it echoes all sorts of warmth needed to celebrate the season.

Price: ₹1,599
Details: styleforme.in

Care package

With most offices playing virtual Secret Santas, you can gift your 'child' a 'Welcome To the Squad' hamper from TheZappyBox which has a sipper, notebooks, instant coffee and gourmet popcorn put together. **Price:** ₹1,790
Details: thezappybox.com

Cereal bowls

While this could be a great gift for kids, adults can enjoy the Slam Dunk cereal bowl by GeekMonkey too. It's a good way to make mornings energetic and fun.

Price: ₹799
Details: geekmonkey.in

Hello, sunshine

If you want to keep it light and bright, the Sunshine Sweetness hamper from InterFlora is a possible option. It's an arrangement of blue canisters with honey-roasted almonds and cream and onion-flavoured cashews, honey lemon tea, chocolate cookies and lilac roses.

Price: ₹2,445
Details: interflora.in

CITY READ

Bengaluru girl shines in shooting tournament

Priya Muralidhar, an international shooter from Seshadripuram Evening Degree College, has secured the 18th position in the 10 mts air pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Championship at Lima, Peru. In the national-level tournament that concluded earlier in December, the Bengaluru girl won a gold and two bronze medals at the 64th National Shooting Championship held at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in the 10 mts air pistol event. She has also secured gold and silver medals during several state-level 10 mts air pistol shooting that were conducted at different sports academies.

GRUB HUB

Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹3,500 from ITC Gardenia Bengaluru **

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Yogisthaan 2) Atta Galatta 3) Claytopia

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Poonam Iyer
2. Anup
3. Nandana S

*Conditions apply

INSIDE
TOUCH OF NOSTALGIA

3

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

WINTER TOUR

As part of his India tour, Prateek Kuhad will be crooning to *Kasoor, Cold/Mess, Tum Jab Paas* and many more at UB City. **When:** Dec 17 **Details:** insider.in

SLEIGHING AROMAS

Gawky Goose is ringing in Christmas in style with a pop-up shop and special menu all month long. There will also be cheerful rhythms, tree lighting and seasonal interiors. **When:** Till Dec 31 **Where:** Gawky Goose, Murgesh Pallya

ON STAGE

Dance like a Manis a two-act stage play written by Sahitya Akademi Award winner Mahesh Dattani. It's directed by Samragni Dasgupta and produced by Last Page Collective. **When:** Dec 21, 7.30 pm **Where:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar

PURE AMUSEMENT

Looking for fun things to do in Bengaluru? Get on one of the 60+ exhilarating rides, or simply laze by the pool under the bright sun. **When:** Till Dec 31 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

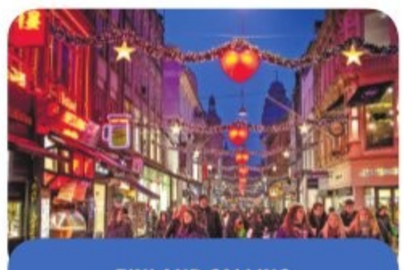
SINGER **OSHO JAIN** WILL BE ENTERTAINING THE AUDIENCE AT FANDOM AT GILLY'S REDEFINED AS PART OF HIS SAAR ALBUM TOUR | **WHEN:** DEC 18 | **DETAILS:** INSIDER.IN

FESTIVE FLAVOURS

Till the New Year, URU Brewpark in JP Nagar will have a lavish festive food available along with spirits and drinks. Carols and Christmas decor will add to the festive celebrations. **When:** Till Jan 1 **Details:** 080 4051 1500

CHRISTMAS CAKE

Give your Christmas cake a new twist with this French classic Christmas Log. It is textured with chocolate sponge and topped with buttercream and hazlenut ganache. Serves 8-10. **Price:** ₹ 1,200 **Where:** Santé Spa Cuisine, Indiranagar **Available:** Dunzo/Swiggy Genie



FINLAND CALLING

The live virtual tour will showcase Santa Claus' Village, Rovaniemi, Finland. Hosted by Empowered Minds Edu Solutions LLP, there will also be a live quiz with Santa. **When:** Dec 15, 4.30 pm **Details:** empoweredminds.co.in

CALLIGRAPHY COURSE

Interested in calligraphy? Attend the course to learn how to use the basic strokes, formation of alphabets, blending techniques and more. **When:** Till Dec 18 **Details:** insider.in

BANGALORE LITERATURE FESTIVAL

The two-day event will feature many literary luminaries, artistes and analysts, including Jahnavi Barua, AT Boyle, Anuja Chandramouli, Vasundhara Das, and more. **When:** Dec 18-19 **Where:** Bangalore International Centre, Domlur

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com

CHICKEN LEMON CORIANDER SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- **Lime juice:** 1/4 cup
- **Coriander** (chopped): 1/2 cup
- **Garlic cloves** (chopped): 9
- **Boneless chicken:** 100 g
- **Monosodium Glutamate** (MSG): ½ tsp
- **Cornflour:** 1 tbsp ■ **Water:** 4 cups
- **Egg:** 1 ■ **Salt:** to taste
- **Butter, pepper:** 1/2 tbsp each
- **Soy sauce:** 1 tbsp
- **Lemon grass:** handful

METHOD

- Boil the chicken and shred.
- In a pan, add butter and chopped garlic. Add the chicken pieces, MSG, salt, pepper and mix well.
- Pour in the lime juice and chopped coriander leaves. Add water and let it boil. Add soy sauce and boil for five minutes.
- Make a mixture of corn flour and warm water, add it to the pan and boil for two minutes.
- Garnish with lemon grass and serve.

— Sarmishtha, New Delhi

FIT BIT

KONASANA

(THE ANGLE POSE I)

This is a side stretching and a standing asana. It provides a deep opening in the sides of the body. This asana not only stretches your spine but it also gives a good stretch to your arms and legs. It makes your spine flexible and tones your abdomen. It opens the trunk and improves balance and concentration. The practitioner begins standing with the feet apart, knees unbent, turns the right foot completely to the outside and the left foot less than 45 degrees to the inside, keeping the heels in line with the hips.

STEPS

- Stand erect with hands at the sides.
- Keep the feet parallel to each other. Inhale, turn the head and look down at the right hand over the shoulder, bend the upper part of the body to the right.
- Slide the right hand down towards the knee, while the left palm slides up to the armpits.
- Keep the hips and legs fixed, only curve the spine. Bring the thorax, the neck and the head to a right angle with the base.
- The oblique upper part of the body must be held straight. Try to complete all the steps in 3 seconds, while inhaling.
- Maintain this position for 6 seconds, retaining the breath. Exhale for 3 seconds and bring the trunk back to the starting position.
- Repeat the above sequence on the other side after two seconds.

BENEFITS

- Helps to increase spine flexibility.
- Stretches the sides of the body, torso, chest, leg joints, and spine.
- Tones the sides, arms, legs, and abdominal organs.
- Stimulates the nervous system and blood flow. Useful to relieve constipation.
- Relieve sciatica (shooting pain in the thigh muscles). Helps relieve back pain.
- Stimulates your bladder and kidney.
- Improves blood circulation.
- Stimulates ovaries and reduces the waistline.
- Gives you a glowing face.
- Helpful in alleviating cough.
- Improves immune system and digestion.
- Energises the body.
- Stimulates the prostate gland.

LIMITATIONS

- Those with severe back pain, heart problems, frozen shoulder, spondylitis, and women in second and third trimester of pregnancy, should avoid.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science), at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

DEEP COVER: THE DRUG WARS

Marijuana, motorcycles, and mayhem. Deep Cover is the true story of an FBI agent in Detroit who goes undercover in an outlaw motorcycle gang and makes a series of bizarre discoveries that inadvertently lead to the US invasion of a foreign country.
- On Apple Podcast

THE HABIT COACH WITH ASHDIN DOCTOR

Ashdin Doctor takes you through the creation of simple habits around, health, sleep, de-stressing, productivity, movement, nutrition and relationships.
- On Apple Podcast

BEAUTIFUL STORIES FROM ANONYMOUS PEOPLE

Every week, comedian Chris Gethard opens the phone line to one anonymous caller. From shocking confessions and family secrets to philosophical discussions and self-promotion.
- On Spotify

NAAN CURRY WITH SADAF AND ARCHIT

Chef Sadaf Hussain explores the rich heritage of food in India one dish at a time with researcher Archit Puri. The conversation will give you a historical perspective on the evolution of food in the country and dive deep into its economics.
- On Gaana

OLOGIES WITH ALIE WARD

Take away a pocket full of science knowledge and bizarre stories about what fuels these professional -ologists' obsessions. Alie Ward asks smart people stupid questions and the answers might change your life.
- On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

YAJAMAN

Vaanavaryan, the much-loved leader of a village, invites his rival Vallavarayan's wrath when he marries Vaitheeswari, the woman he loves. To take revenge, Vallavarayan resorts to drastic measures.
- Cast: Rajinikanth, Meena

KIZHAKKU CHEEMAYILE

A brother shares a close bond with his sister and is ecstatic to see her get married. However, problems arise when his new brother-in-law disapproves of the sibling relationship.
- Cast: Vijayakumar, Raadhika and Napoleon

KIZHAKKU VAASAL

When an influential man from the village tries to molest Thaayamma, an orphan, she escapes from his clutches and is saved by Ponnurangam. Eventually, they fall in love.
- Cast: Revathi, Karthik

KIZHAKKU MUGAM

A village headman's daughter falls in love with a man who works at a burial ground. After much reluctance, he gives in to his daughter's wish, on the condition that the man leaves his foster mother.
- Cast: Karthik, Reshma

KANNUPADA POGUTHAIYA

Vetrivel, a respected man, dearly loves his brother and sacrifices his love for him. Problems arise when his brother, Subramaniyam, starts suspecting him of having an affair with his wife Gowri.
- Cast: Vijayakanth, Simran

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 THE NEED FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION -- TO MAKE FAMILIES WHOLE AGAIN BY ELIZABETH ZION

In this profoundly moving talk, writer, poet and student Elizabeth Zion shares the impacts of family separation, including her personal struggles with homelessness and poverty — and points a way toward moral and just policies that recognize the human rights of migrant families.

2 EDUCATION IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD BY MAKHTOUM ABDALLA

For children growing up in refugee camps, education is a powerful tool of liberation. In this inspiring talk, Makhtoum Abdalla, displaced as a child in Sudan and now living with his family in the Otash camp in Darfur, shares his biggest dream: to ensure all children are educated and taught the skills needed to become "captains of their destiny."

3 THE LIFE-CHANGING POWER OF ASSISTED TECHNOLOGIES BY JANE VELKOVSKI

Accessibility champion Jane Velkovski, who uses a wheelchair after being diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) shares how his first motorised wheelchair empowered him with independence and ability — and why assistive technology should be available to anyone who needs it.

4 HOW TO PROTECT YOUR MENTAL WELL-BEING ONLINE — FROM A GEN-ZER BY PEACHY LIV

We've all witnessed nastiness and hate speech on social media. YouTube content creator and mental well-being motivator Peachy Liv advocates for a kinder, more respectful digital world — and urges us all to reflect before we share our thoughts online.

5 TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE, LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE BY NKOSILATHI NYATHI

In a world where climate catastrophe feels almost unstoppable, we must involve everyone in finding solutions — especially young people, who have the most at stake, says Zimbabwean environmental activist Nkosilathi Nyathi.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

PAAGAL (Telugu)

After his mother's death, Prem, a young man, searches for love in every woman he comes across. However, when he finds true love in Theera, they face several challenges in their quest to unite.

Cast: Nivetha Pethuraj, Vishwak Sen, Megha Lekha
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

MGR MAGAN (Tamil)

An estranged father and son must join hands to save a medicinal mountain from the claws of a businessman.

Cast: Mirnalini Ravi, M Sasikumar, Samuthira
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

BHAI: VYAKTI KI VALLI - UTTARARDH (Marathi)

The second installment of PL Deshpande's biopic explores the Marathi humorist's political journey, philanthropic endeavours and personal life.

Cast: Sagar Deshmukh, Jravati Harshe, Vijay Kenkre
- Watch on: Netflix

LAKEERAN (Punjabi)

Guilt-ridden over his involvement in a fatal car accident, a young expat returns to Punjab, falling for a woman who carries traumas of her own.

Cast: Harman Virk, Yuvika Chaudhry, Nirmal Rishi
- Watch on: Netflix

TUCK JAGADISH (Telugu)

After the unexpected death of their father, an older brother turns against his younger brother to inherit his property. The younger brother tries to reunite their family and carry on his father's legacy.

Cast: Ritu Varma, Nani, Aishwarya Rajesh
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

MALANG (Hindi)

Years after a police encounter separates him from his lover, an angry young man goes on a killing spree, with an equally vengeful cop on his heels.

Cast: Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur, Disha Patani
- Watch on: Netflix

MAHI NRI (Punjabi)

A Punjabi man attempts to build a life in London in hopes of impressing his girlfriend's mother, who insists her daughter marry a man outside of India.

Cast: Harrdy Sandhu, Poppy Jabbal, Rameet Kaur
- Watch on: Netflix

FOREIGN

MIRAGE (Spanish)

A space-time continuum glitch allows Vera to save a boy's life 25 years earlier, but results in the loss of her daughter, whom she fights to get back.

Cast: Adriana Ugarte, Chino Darín, Javier Gutiérrez
- Watch on: Netflix

A WHISKER AWAY (Japanese)

A peculiar girl transforms into a cat to catch her crush's attention. But before she realises it, the line between human and animal starts to blur.

Cast: Mirai Shida, Natsuki Hanae, Hiroaki Ogi
- Watch on: Netflix

CRUELLA (English)

This film is about the rebellious early days of cinema's most notorious and fashionable villain, Cruella de Vil

Cast: Emma Stone, Emma Thompson, Joel Fry
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

RISING HIGH (German)

Ready to do anything to get rich, a young man upends the Berlin property market with his shady pal, till the good times threaten to destroy it all.

Cast: David Kross, Frederick Lau, Janina Uhse
- Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 499 per year
Sony Liv: ₹ 299 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Netflix: ₹ 199 per month

This teen-only app enables youngsters to capitalise on their passion early on and helps them connect with like-minded communities

CONTENT, COMMUNITY, COMMERCE

Many teens restrict their interests due to parental pressure or peer pressure. Hence, we want to encourage teens to explore their interests and capitalise on their skills and build their profile

Saurabh Saxena, entrepreneur

SANATH PRASAD

THE trend towards passion economy is on an incline. Content creators, especially teenagers, are now shaping an ecosystem to mould their interests and capitalise on the same to create a revenue-making model for themselves. Furthermore, it has kept entrepreneurs and startup buffs engaged in bridging the gap between technology and users even closer. Which is why Saurabh Saxena, who quit as the co-founder of Vedantu in 2017, started Uable, a teen-only app. Working as an educator in his first two ventures, Saxena is not new to the ed-tech space. However, in his third venture, he wanted to focus on education in the form of entertainment, passion and non-academic skills. Co-founded by Vasavi Kandula, Uable allows only users between the age group of 13-19 years to sign up and become independent content creators. According to the founders, the app incentivises them to both create and consume content, make friends and explore their interests through micro-communities called Clubs. Engineering clubs, gaming clubs, designers' clubs, entrepreneurship clubs... teenagers can engage with content, mentors and social media influencers.

Launched in September 2021, the app has close to a quarter million users. However, what it has been woven into recently, is a model of content, community and commerce. The launch of U-store in the app, an in-built e-commerce store, is a way of incentivising the content for teens and empowering them financially. "Working with teenagers for 13 years, I realised that preparing them for examinations and guiding them toward good universities is just one part of life. However, passion and lifestyle is much beyond education. This does not mean we discourage education. But it is equally important to capitalise on a teen's passion early-on," says Saxena, adding, "Many teens restrict their interests due to parental pressure or peer pressure. Hence, we want to encourage youngsters to explore their interests and capitalise on their skills and build their profile."

What started as a life-skill product has now been moulded into a community-based and commerce model where content creators and consumers can earn 'U coins' to purchase a range of merchandise for the content they produce. According to Saxena, the coins they earn are determined on the level of engagement and reactions a user generates through their content. "Users can earn U-coins by engaging with high-quality content and engaging with content. For the creators, we incentivise them when they create memes, video content, audio content, that are useful for communities. The store includes electronics, BTS band merchandise, Marvel merchandise, fashion essentials, books. Very soon we will also be launching vouchers of their favourite brands and integrating U-coins with gaming," says Saxena, who loves to read philosophy books and travel which helps him de-stress. "The takeaways from my travel expedition or from my reading of philosophical books have helped me add value to build the app," adds Saxena.

How it works:

Sign up on the app if you are between 13-19 years

Post a dialogue to your favourite club such as 'influencer', 'entrepreneurship', 'programming' etc

Earn U coins based on the engagements and reactions you receive on your content

Buy merchandise ranging from 20 coins to 1500 coins

Funds raised: $4.5 mn
Trending clubs: Entrepreneurship, gaming ,design and influencer's club

If you're planning to get a new cut for the New Year, here's what you should know

BANG ON

(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrums and lifestyle coach)

THERE are two categories of people – one, trendsetters, and the other, who give a touch of their personal flavours to trends, thus making it their own style. Whichever category you fall under, the hair styling or hair trends add a whole dash of newness to your look. Personally, I go for hair cuts or an overall colour change when I'm bored and seeking some change; even though it has been a season of limited travels for most of us, I did go in for some hair transformation. Switching up the hair colour is like the declaration of a mindset, a mood, it's a great thing to do if you want a new look.

"I feel hair styles are not so definitive anymore. It's statement-making colours, rather than definitive styles that are trending. Actor Jennifer Winget was ready for a dramatic makeover, so we collaborated with her and launched our Cherry Red hair colour. As you can see, Jennifer is a gorgeous "red head". Red is a popular colour this winter, or even a violet blue for our more adventurous clients. Hair colour is a great way to experience the same kind of significant, personal transformation as you would with a new cut or style," says Adhuna Bhabani, founder and creative director, BBLUNT.

The adventurous ones love the hair trends set up by pop sensation, Billie Eilish, who dyed her hair a bright, almost a phosphorescent green. Beyonce, the queen of pop, has caramel honey coloured highlights that add to the warmth of her skin tone and is more subtle rather than experimental styling.

Platinum blonde

It requires a lot of maintenance and salon appointments to keep it looking healthy and fashionable. Since it is a bold statement, it is essential to have a serious discussion with your stylist.

Bronde

Blonde + brunette: A mix of warm and cool tones of blonde and reds are the new balayage. Depending on the skin tone and hair colour, this trend is low maintenance and a perfect choice for many. This is a toned-down version of blonde and safe to experiment with if you ain't seeking a big transformation.

A subtler version of it would be warm highlights that are effortless and stay easily for months depending on the length, colour, and tone of the hair.

With winter upon us as well as the festive season, Bhabani adds, "For a bridal look, I would work with natural texture and more realistic hair, taking weather, comfort and context as considerations, over a contrived or high-maintenance style. A great cut, colour or style can bring a beautiful balance between the aesthetic of the bride's bone structure, face shape, body proportions, costume and colours she will be wearing; it's the same idea we would go through during a consultancy for a haircut." Deeper conversations in the space of fashion and beauty are finally the considerations of trends whilst trends are choices we make that express our sensibilities. Fashion is nothing but emoting your thoughts, so let us welcome 2022 with a fresh burst of 'colour' in our lives and a 'bang'.

CITY READ

UN body partners with software company

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with SAP, a software company, launched the Project Code Unnati, to promote digital skilling and entrepreneurship development for youth and women across three districts in Karnataka. The initiative was inaugurated by Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, minister for Electronics, IT and BT, Science and Technology, Sindhu Gangadharan, senior vice- president and managing director, SAP Labs India, and Amit Kumar, head, inclusive growth, UNDP among others. The project has curated three broad workstreams, that will directly impact the lives of over 20,000 youth, 5000 women, and 300 community-based enterprises in the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Raichur, and Bengaluru Rural over the duration of three years. These include imparting digital literacy, enhancing entrepreneurial skills, providing digital financial education for women, building digital skills and entrepreneurship development at the university level for youngsters and much more.

NGO collaborates with health insurance company

Akshaya Patra, a non-governmental organisation and ManipalCigna, a health insurance partnered recently to address Covid-19 food relief efforts across India. The initiative aims to distribute a total of 4,500 Akshaya Patra's family happiness kits in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad along with a school painting project. The Cigna Foundation, funded by contributions from Cigna Corporation and its subsidiaries, has also pledged $75,000 to help provide dry ration kits to the economically deprived families affected by the pandemic.

Oxygen On The Rocks' new music video is a journey celebrating life, dreams and happiness

Touch of nostalgia

Souvik Chakraborty

A still from Manchala

Anish Chakraborty

SANATH PRASAD

A young man sporting a yellow clad kurta, cycling along the splashing green cover of a village and reliving the childhood days of dancing in rains and playing with the balloon, is a scene that reflects the story of life as a journey with many stories. This is exactly what *Manchala*, a new music video by Bengaluru-based band Oxygen On the Rocks, seeks to deliver.

Launched by digital media platform, Hungama Artist Aloud, the music video is directed by Bilwanath Chatterjee and sung by the band lead vocalist, Souvik Chakraborty. Set in Labhpur, the music video shines light on how a young man (featuring Indranil Das) cycles through the lanes of villages and enjoys every bit of happiness in life.

The makers of the music video believe that the concept dates back to the late '80s and the '90s when taking a ride on a bullock cart, flying balloons, catching up the folk singers, were central to lifestyle. According to Chakraborty, the music video is also themed on handing over the baton to the next generation who have a dream. This is symbolically conveyed through a balloon that is passed on by the protagonist to a young kid to lead his dream. "The interpretation of the story is very subjective. However, the idea was to wait and watch what the protagonist wants to do at the end. Here's where, a man who has achieved something in life is back to the village and hands over the balloon which symbolises dream, to the next generation or the dreamer," says Chakraborty.

The makers wanted to present a very natural screenplay in the music video. From casting the Baul singers of Bengal to waiting for rains to hit, the music video consists of real characters and settings. Interestingly, although the video was shot using drones and using advanced gadgets, the story appears to be set in the pre-modern era. This can be seen when the protagonist enjoys playing with the balloons, dances in the rain, uses an old-fashioned cycle and ties the balloons to its rear seat. "Interestingly, the cycle was customised to give it an old look. We wanted a worn-out cycle, compared to the trendy ones that we get today. The music video has a classic touch to it. Moreover, on the music lines, this project predominantly uses the percussion and a little bit of the western touch. Although we specialise in rock bands, we wanted to reverse the change, by bringing the percussion first," says Anish Chakraborty, co-producer of *Manchala*.

PIC CREDITS: BBLUNT

INSCRYPTION – BOOTSTRAPPING WITH CARDS

@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Inscryption is really a nerdy puzzle-based deck-building game. It is based off a simple boardgame mechanic, which works surprisingly well as a videogame. What reeled me in, is its lore and the very peculiar, nightmare-esque aesthetic. I am in a cabin, the door is locked. The room is cloaked in darkness, and I only see a table, dimly lit by cursed candles that indicate my fate. On the other end of the table is a bearded stranger, with skeletal fingers and bright eyes. He immerses me into the illusion he has woven.

I am told that I am in a forest, in a caravan. The cards are my guardian creatures that help me struggle ahead. There are helpful witches, greedy hunters, and the occasional packrats. I must use the boons they give me to my advantage. I believe everything the stranger tells me. He challenges me to an insane card game. I must play, and I must win. Or I lose, and start from the beginning all over again.

To a person with no context, the cards would appear as though speaking a whole other language. But Inscryption does an excellent job of visually explaining the game mechanics. The game begins with a starter deck of woodland creatures. There are squirrels, and then other creatures. Squirrels could be sacrificed to give powers to the other creatures. The creatures would then attack the enemy, enough to tip over his damage scales — and make him lose.

As I progress ahead and defeat mini-bosses, I build my card decks. The deck building strategy can be as easy or as difficult as we want it to be. A seasoned card-game enthusiast might actually have a strategy. I went the aggressive newb route, accumulating high powered creatures, and levelling up their damage and health every chance I got. If I played it right, I could defeat the enemy in a single move.

Obviously, it took me atleast 15 attempts to even get to boss #3 in the game. However, the game makes even losses worth my while. I have the opportunity to better my deck build, and the chance of gaining better cards in my path the next time around. The experience refreshes every time the game does, which makes wins very gratifying. I was engaged enough to stick around till the mysterious narrative was concluded. I rate the game a whole 4 sacrifices out of 4 for making a deck-buillder wholesome fun. It is available via the Steam store for the PC.

SMARTADS

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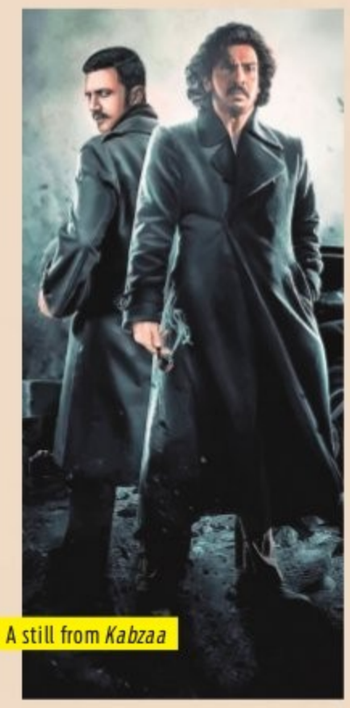
SUDEEP TO ENTER *KABZAA* SETS ON DECEMBER 15

R Chandru's upcoming period drama, starring Upendra, has Sudeep in a prominent role named Bhargav Bakshi


A still from *Kabzaa*

CE FEATURES

KICHCHA Sudeep to begin shooting for *Kabzaa* from December 15. The *Vikrant Rona* star is playing a pivotal character in R Chandru's upcoming film. The underworld drama, starring Upendra, has Sudeep appearing in a stylish retro avatar named Bhargav Bakshi.

The team had earlier announced the development with a poster. It was captioned, "His journey begins to end the bloody mafia 'Badshaah Kichcha Sudeep as Bhargav Bakshi (1947-1986)."

The makers, who had resumed shooting in November, have finally completed the jail sequences.

R Chandru

Art director Shiva Kumarhave and his team have constructed a grand set, where Sudeep's portions will be shot.

The film marks the second collaboration of Sudeep and Upendra, who had earlier worked together for *Mukunda Murari*. The film cast also includes Jagapathi Babu, Rahul Dev, Anup Revanna, Kabir Duhan Singh, Danish Akhtar Saifi, Pradeep Rawat, Jayaprakash, and Kota Srinivas among others. The team is yet to reveal the female lead. It is speculated that R Chandru is planning to rope in a leading South Indian actress.

Kabzaa, presented by MTB Nagaraj, is bankrolled by the director himself under his Sri Siddheshwara Enterprises banner. The film's music is by Ravi Basrur, while the cinematography is by AJ Shetty.

Sudeep

Director Mayuraa Raghavendra recently unveiled the film's title, and buzz is that *Dia* hero will be part of RJ-turned-director's second film

Pruthvi Ambaar

PRUTHVI AMBAAR TO HEADLINE *ABA JABA DABA?*

A SHARADHAA

RJ turned-director Mayuraa Raghavendra recently announced his second directorial venture, titled *Aba Jaba Daba*. The filmmaker, who made his debut with *Kannad Gottilla*, is now busy with the pre-production work of his next film. While the makers have kept the cast details under wraps, speculations are rife that Pruthvi Ambaar is going to headline the project, which is billed to be a fantasy rom-com.

Aba Jaba Daba's poster had Karate King Shankar Nag in the title credit, which garnered a lot of attention. It has also created curiosity about Pruthvi Ambaar's role. An official confirmation about the hero and other actors is expected in January 2022. *Pruthvi*, post-*Dia* in 2019, became one of the busiest actors in Sandalwood. He is also part of a handful of interesting projects including the remake of Dia in Hindi, *Life is Beautiful, For Regn, Sugarless, Bairagee, Happily Married* and his film with director Vijay Milton. He is currently committed to Darshan Apoorva's directorial debut, which is on floors in Mangaluru. The film also has Kushi Ravi in the female lead. Director Mayura, who has written the story, has Anantha Krishna backing the project under the S Ram Productions banner.

Mayuraa Raghavendra

Pramod's *Alankaar Vidhyarthi* is a full-fledged rom-com

Keshav's directorial debut is a college drama; The film, starring Archana Kottige in the female lead, goes on floors today

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Pramod, who has completed shooting for *English Manja*, took no time to sign in for his next project, *Alankaar Vidhyarthi*. Keshav, who has previously assisted Director Suni, is making his debut with the film. The makers came up with an intriguing poster in a PUC marks card format, which garnered a good attention. The film was officially launched on December 10.

Pramod, who received good appreciation for his role in *Rathnan Prapancha*, is happy to be part of the project. "This will be my first full-fledged rom-com subject - a dialogue-heavy film. I lost around five kgs in 20 days to play a college student," says Pramod.

"It is about a backbencher, who is in love with the topper of the class. He toils to get admission to an engineering college just to be with his loved one, who is also studying there. What happens once he gets the seat is what the rom-com is about. The director has brought in an element of suspense in the second half," he explains.

Archana Kottige, the heroine of *Dear Sathya*, is playing the female lead. The film also has Rajinikanth, Achyuth Kumar, and Sudha Belawadi in prominent roles.

Alankaar Vidhyarthi is jointly produced by Rohith Prasanna, Yogesh Sri Ram, and Madhu Aradhya. Pramod is also part of the Premier Padmini sequel.

Pramod

Gajanana and Gang trailer to release on December 22

CE FEATURES

THE trailer of director Abhishek Shetty's upcoming college drama, *Gajanana and Gang*, will be released on December 22. The film stars Shri Mahadev in the lead, and it will be the actor's first mass outing. Stills of the film, which also features Aditi Prabhudeva, was shared with *CE*.

This will be Abhishek Shetty's second directorial after *Nam Gani BCom Pass*. Pradyottan has scored music for this film, and the team had recently released a song sung by the late Puneeth Rajkumar.

Backed by Nagesh Kumar, *Gajanana and Gang* has *Bigg Boss season 8* contestants Bro Gowda, and Raghu Gowda along with Chetan Durga in the cast.

Currently, in post-production, the makers are simultaneously working on the release plans.

Shri Mahadev and Aditi Prabhudeva

Priyanka Chopra Jonas wraps shoot of *Citadel*

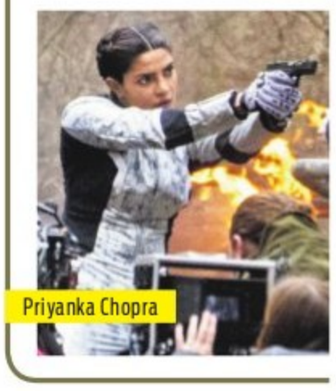
CE FEATURES

PRIYANKA Chopra-Jonas has wrapped up filming her upcoming Amazon Studios series, *Citadel*. Backed by directors Anthony and Joe Russo, *Citadel* is a multi-series franchise that stars Richard Madden, and Danish actor Roland Moller.

The actor took to her social media handles to share pictures with the cast and crew of the show from London. Priyanka wrote, "It's a wrap on #*Citadel* Phew... A whole year of doing the most intense work during the most intense time. It could not have been possible without this incredible lot of people. Some you see here, some you don't. It's been hard but when you all see it... It will be worth it! Onwards and upwards."

The franchise with local productions is being made in Italy, India, and Mexico. The Indian series will be developed by director-duo Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK.

Meanwhile, Priyanka will next be seen in Keanu Reeves-lead *The Matrix Resurrections*, which is slated to hit the cinemas on December 22.


Priyanka Chopra

Brahamastra motion poster to be unveiled at a special fan event

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt

CE FEATURES

DHARMA Productions has announced a fan event where the first motion poster of *Brahmastra* will be unveiled.

Directed by Ayan Mukerji, Brahmastra is a fantasy superhero film starring Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. The film's release has been delayed multiple times over the last two years. Its final release date is said to be announced at the December 15 event.

"Holding my breath in anticipation & folding my hands in invitation. The air seems to stand still around me, as I call out to all the fans who have waited patiently for just this moment - Join the epic trio of #*Brahmastra* at a grand stage that we've set to introduce our Shiva," producer Karan Johar tweeted.

The registrations for the fan event are now on. It will take place at the Thyagraj Stadium Complex in New Delhi. Brahamastra stars Ranbir with Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan and Nagarjuna. They are joined by Dimple Kapadia and Mouni Roy in key roles.